

# Election Dissection

THE GATEWAY CUTS TO THE  
HEART OF THIS YEAR'S SU RACE  
FEATURE, PAGE 6

# THE GATEWAY



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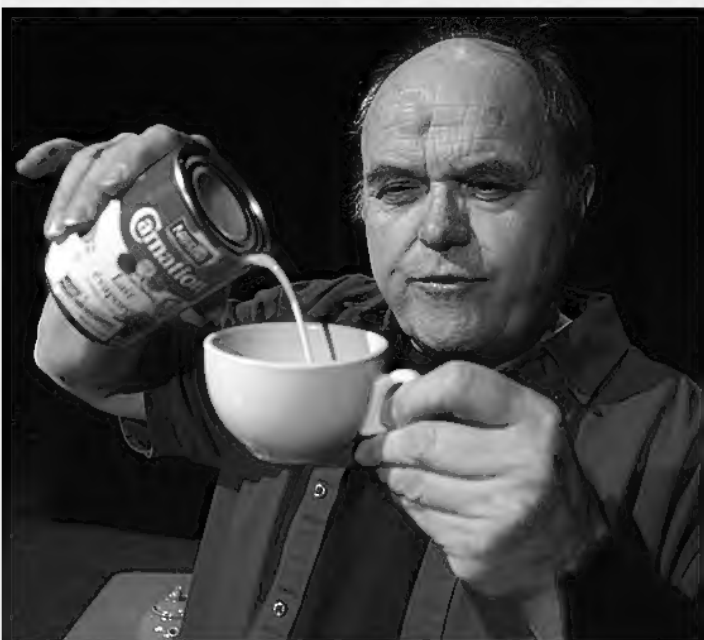
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### Clawing their way to victory

The Bears hockey squad won their 14th straight CanWest championship, securing a berth at CIS nationals later this month.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/SAM BROOKS

**BETTER LIFE CHOICES** Colten Yamagishi (left) and David McBean are battling for the position of VP (Student Life) at the Myer Horowitz forum Monday.

## Candidates talk lack of election interest at Myer Horowitz forum

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor

Candidates for the Students' Union executive elections talked about engagement and apathy in the Myer Horowitz Theatre Monday at noon.

The candidates began by presenting their platforms, reiterating points that they had made in previous forums. One notable difference was that Dr. Horrible's infamous song was turned into a duet with fellow presidential candidate Rory Tighe.

The platforms and cross-examinations were followed by a long question period, in which audience members focused on engagement and the lack of people both in the theatre and running for office. Attendance at the forum was lacklustre, and although classes were cancelled for the event, only about 60 students showed up at the noon presentation.

"Elections are becoming a more and more time-consuming way to spend your Winter term, and with students who are working longer hours [...] spreading their time thin, I think elections are becoming harder for some people to justify. That's my best guess at what part of the problem is," said Andy Cheema, the sole candidate for Vice President (Operations and Finance).

"I think part of the problem is unfortunately nothing really exciting happened this year and this is no fault of the previous executive. We just didn't have a CoSSS fee, we didn't have a Kory Mathewson [...] but one thing that should be exciting this year is the

provincial and maybe federal election coming up," said Farid Iskandar, who is the only candidate running for Vice President (External).

Vice President (Academic) candidate Emerson Csorba said he was surprised his race was uncontested, as there were people he thought would run who were "just as competent or even more qualified" than he was. Csorba added that advertising the elections or encouraging people is enough to increase engagement.

**"We have to create more opportunities that aren't necessarily council for students to get their feet wet."**

RORY TIGHE  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

"I think the responses to the question so far have not been so good. I don't think things like [...] getting people to run for council or encouraging them will actually do anything to help," he said. "I think what we need to do [...] is to get people engaged as soon as they come to campus and that's tough [...] Through the peer mentorship program and through Orientation, I'd like to go up to first years and tell them this is something you should engage in [...] and get them involved."

Raphael Lepage Fortin, who is

seeking the position of Board of Governors Representative, said that his position is unpaid, which may be one reason for the lack of interest.

"It is really sad when you look at it that there's no one else running [...] One of the things I'm currently asking myself if it's plausible to do is a Twitter presentation [...] The other option is, to really to get people engaged, you have to do the model and you have to do it yourself [...] you have to jump into activities with the SU, townhalls, Antifreeze, Week of Welcome, Orientation, and get involved yourself."

Tighe said there should be less of a focus on encouraging people to run for Students' Council and more of an emphasis on other opportunities to get involved within the SU, through activities such as the Break the Record dodgeball event.

"We have to create more opportunities that aren't necessarily Council for students to get their feet wet," he said. "I think we also have to tailor things to what students are interested in [...] It's not the SU coming out and saying, 'you should do this.' It's by getting someone interested and them telling their friends."

Other questions fielded by candidates were on an array of topics, including sustainability, contracts for SU volunteers, and digital textbooks.

The Horowitz forum is the last debate before elections on March 9 and 10. Students can view the candidates' platforms at thegatewayonline.ca/vote2011.

—with files from Andrew Jeffrey

## Klawe kicks off Festival of Teaching

RYAN BROMSGROVE  
News Staff

University of Alberta alumna Maria Klawe shared her years of teaching experience with a crowd during her opening keynote "Teaching Trials and Triumphs," the first event of the Festival of Teaching.

Klawe is the current president of California's Harvey Mudd College and a member of Microsoft's board of directors. Her talk was part of the fourth annual festival, which runs at March 10 and aims to celebrate and improve teaching at the U of A.

The speech detailed her lengthy career in academic administration and teaching, which began when she was an undergraduate student in the math department at the U of A. Speaking to a crowd composed largely of teachers, she discussed what she found to be the best methods of teaching, but began with her first experience as a young woman.

"At the end of my first-year honours calculus class, I went to the chair of that department [...] and said I really liked this course, it was a wonderful course, and I would like to teach it next year. I was 17," Klawe said.

PLEASE SEE TEACHING • PAGE 3



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colophon

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Building more than houses in Honduras

Interest in Habitat Builder's Club waning despite "incredible" cultural experiences it offers

KAITLYN GRANT  
News Writer

The Habitat Builder's Club spent Reading Week giving back to a small town in Honduras, but it could be one of their last chances to make a difference, as the student group has been hard pressed to find student interest.

Eight university students spent their week off building a house in Honduras for an impoverished family. However, the student group faces extinction as getting interested volunteers for the club has been hard to do since its beginning in 2008, and the current executives are going to be graduating from university at the end of this year.

In Honduras, the students learned to mix concrete by hand and built a house of stone while being fully immersed in Honduran culture. Jillian D'hont, vice president of the Habitat Builder's Club, believes that working with the different materials and limited equipment added to the cultural experience of the trip.

"It was incredible. It was completely different than anything we'd ever done before, in regards to building as well as culture. The buildings were concrete and all we'd ever [built] before was wood houses. We got to experience a culture that none of us knew much about and we were pretty much immersed straight into it."

D'hont believes meeting the families and seeing how you are helping



LISA LIN

**FAR AND AWAY** Members of the Habitat Builder's Club are pictured above working on a house in Honduras.

them is one of the many reasons students should want to be involved with the club.

"The people you meet in general are amazing, especially the families you get to meet whose homes you are building. To see what you are doing for them and be able to give them the basic need of shelter is incredible because we definitely take for granted what we have and don't realize that some people don't have the necessities that most of us do."

The Habitat Builder's Club is affiliated with Habitat for Humanity, a local NGO that provides affordable housing to underprivileged families. No building experience is required to go on any of the builds hosted by Habitat for Humanity.

Throughout the year, the Habitat Builder's Club helps out with local builds around Edmonton. The club also fundraises for local and international builds and spends time raising student awareness of the

organization in general.

"It's kind of a mystery to us, too. We are just working as hard as we can to get that interest and hoping that someone will fall in love with it as much as we have because we don't want it to end," D'Hont said.

D'hont and Andrew Patterson, the club president, formed the club after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, where the first international build took students to rebuild homes of hurricane victims.

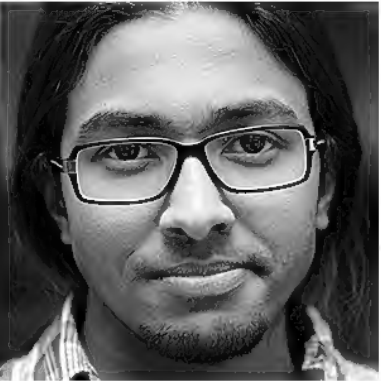
STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Aaron Yeo

As you may be aware, classes were cancelled at noon yesterday for the Myer Horowitz election forum. What did you do with the free time?



Grady Gibson  
Science III



Aditya Rao  
Arts IV



Jaimi Mann  
Nursing I



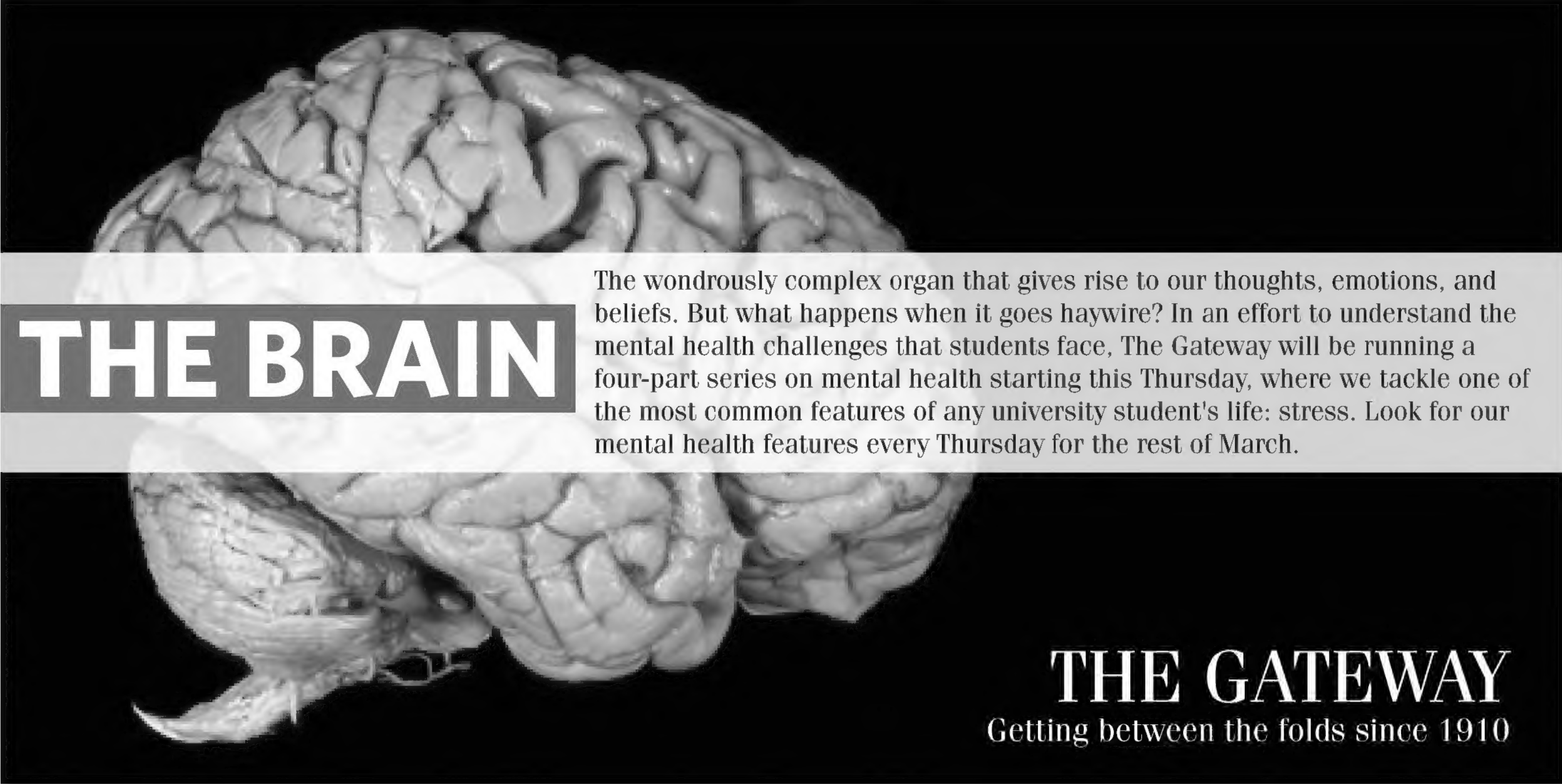
Chad Nicpon  
Engineering V

What? Classes were cancelled?!

I spent my free time at the forum plotting a revolution. [Against?] The Students' Union. I'm staging a coup. Haven't you heard?

I didn't have class. I went and got a coffee from Tim Horton's. I rolled up the rim, but I lost, unfortunately.

I went to class. My fuel cells class didn't get cancelled. [How do you feel now that you know?] It didn't bug me. I guess it was just a typical day then for me.



# THE BRAIN

The wondrously complex organ that gives rise to our thoughts, emotions, and beliefs. But what happens when it goes haywire? In an effort to understand the mental health challenges that students face, The Gateway will be running a four-part series on mental health starting this Thursday, where we tackle one of the most common features of any university student's life: stress. Look for our mental health features every Thursday for the rest of March.

## THE GATEWAY

Getting between the folds since 1910



# Communication comes up as a major issue in SUBstage election forum

SIWEI CHEN  
News Staff

The mostly uncontested executive election candidates took to the SUBstage last Tuesday and Thursday to present their platforms and answer questions concerning this year's race.

Executive hopefuls shared a few points in their platforms, such as a more efficient use of student space, better communication with students, and the regulation of mandatory non-instructional fees.

"I don't necessarily have something really big and shiny and new that you may not have seen, but these are really tangible things that students will benefit from on a long-term and a short-term basis," said presidential candidate Rory Tighe.

His platform of increasing student space, increasing the lines of communication, and increasing the volunteering base contrasted with Dr. Horrible's platform of anarchy.

The only contested position in this year's election is that of Vice President (Student Life), between Colten Yamagishi and David McBean.

Yamagishi explained the three Ds of his platform: diversifying events, developing new services, and defending the student voice. McBean supported SU collaboration with faculties, a greater variety of student involvement opportunities, and a creation of a volunteer base to be shared between the SU and any student group in need of volunteer assistance.

Emerson Csorba, the sole Vice President (Academic) candidate, is running on a platform of creating an undergraduate research symposium, graduate attributes — defining qualities of U of A grads — and a student peer mentorship program. Csorba alluded to the University of Calgary's successful symposium as a model on which to base one at the U of A, prom-



SAM BROOKS

**LISTEN UP** Csorba spoke alongside other candidates on SUBstage last week.

ised to obtain the student opinion on the graduate attributes, and pair up first-year and older students to ensure academic success for new students.

The Vice President (External) candidate Farid Iskandar spoke about the necessity of on-campus polling stations in multiple constituencies to allow all Albertans to vote anywhere in the province. He also called for the need to regulate mandatory non-instructional fees as a way to protect students from potential abuse of the currently vague regulations, and the push to remove the 10 per cent and 15 per cent tariff on imported books from the United States and across the world, respectively.

Iskandar's only opponent, Godzilla held his own, communicating through his campaign manager Brett Flesher, he advocated for a better relationship with foreign exchange students and the organization of a march on the Legislature

to lobby for university students.

Raphael Lepage Fortin, the Board of Governors Representative candidate, spoke about how people should vote.

"Not many people have an interest in governance or in decisions that are made for them, so I'd like to remind people that it's no longer about voting for someone that's going to vote like you, but voting for someone that's going to ask you what you think."

In the last uncontested position, Vice President (Operations and Finance) candidate Andy Cheema also had plans to increase efficiency of student space by renovating SUB's lower level. He also talked about his desire to strengthen food and beverage options on campus as well as strengthening the performance of SU businesses that may not be performing at their best.

Voting for all candidates, and the Fall Reading Week plebiscite, will take place March 9 and 10.

# Prioritize teaching and research: Klawe

TEACHING ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She was awarded a teaching assistant job in the course, and went on to earn a doctorate in math. Klawe started working her way through courses she found the most problematic.

Time and again Klawe came back to her love of teaching, even during her tenure as dean of engineering at Princeton.

"The engineering students hated the way that calculus was taught by the math department [...] and [the previous eight deans] had all trekked over to the math department at various times complaining [...] and I decided it's not going to make any difference if I do this. Instead, I'll ask if I can teach."

When it comes to teaching, her advice emphasized building confidence in students, displaying passion, making personal connections, and giving constant feedback.

"My experience is that everyone wants to know how they're doing," Klawe said. "And yes, they would prefer that the feedback be that they were doing really well, but they would rather know early on that they need to work harder on something."

Klawe recommended what she called "an early semester approach," which aims to prevent problems that could be getting in the way of learning by asking students about issues before they blossom into larger problems. She added that the most difficult thing for a student to face is a teacher



AARON YEO

who isn't excited about teaching.

But Klawe said that students in these situations are not completely without hope, and she recommended that students work to promote positive teaching habits themselves.

"One thing you can do is use positive reinforcement. If the faculty member does something that you think is good, like gives a good reading assignment or gives a good lecture, go up at the end of that class and say, 'I really liked that.'"

As well as featuring speakers, the festival allows attendees to sit in on

more than 100 open classrooms, allowing teachers to learn by observing their colleagues' teaching.

Klawe emphasized the central role of teaching in institutes of higher learning, even when contrasted with the necessity of research.

"I think for each of us, the reason that we're here at the university is for the learning. I love to research. It's a big part of my life. But you can do research in lots of places. The only place you can actually be with students and be a part of their growth through life is to actually be at a university or college."

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Athabasca University

# Tighe takes on joke candidate Dr. Horrible in presidential race

*The President is the primary spokesperson for the Students' Union. They are responsible for maintaining an awareness of major issues affecting students and shall supervise the overall administration of the Students' Union and coordination of the Executive Committee.*

Compiled by Sara Kotow

**1** Why are you running for president of the Students' Union?

**Rory Tighe:** I'm on the executive this year and there are a lot of projects going on that I really want see through and that I'm really excited to work on. So I guess the big thing is I don't feel done. I'm not ready to leave yet.

**Dr. Horrible:** I thought it would be good to network with people. I'm not running for real because the co-op faculty specialization takes me away from the campus next year. But I thought it would be good to get the experience for when I do run for something; I would know what to expect. I'm going to be running for engineering councillor so I thought this would be a good warm-up.

**2** What would you make your biggest priority to achieve if elected?

**Tighe:** Next year, a really big priority of the SU has to be external advocacy. If you ever want to look at things like the CoSSS fee going away or making sure that market modifiers are either not happening or done in a really reasonable way, we have to look at funding from the government. Doing a "get out to vote" campaign if there is a federal or provincial election will be a really important aspect.

**Dr. Horrible:** Creating anarchy—only if I rule it, of course. The system we have now is capitalistic and it doesn't really focus on everyone. It focuses on the people with money, and it doesn't



SAM BROOKS

serve everyone's best interests, so if everyone has an equal footing we can take care of that.

**3** How would you lead a cohesive executive team?

**Tighe:** The role of president is largely to support the executive projects. It's really important that they are there to help all the executives when they need it. I've been on the executive for a year so I have that experience, which is a really important quality for somebody to have coming in.

**Dr. Horrible:** There would be no need for executives. I'd have a throne I'd sit on and people would come and supplicate before me.

**4** How could you improve student engagement and increase the visibility of the SU?

**Tighe:** Student space will be an important aspect to that, but we also need to improve our communication infrastructure such as how we are getting information across to students. This year, with all the uncontested elections, I think it's important to increase student involvement, and find ways for them to become involved in the SU without

necessarily being on the executive.

**Dr. Horrible:** My government would actually be sort of a shadow figure — not very many people would be aware they existed. We would have secret police to enforce my will on campus. Everyone would believe their neighbour is a secret police officer and if I can get that going, I can enforce my will on campus without having a very large police force.

**5** This past year, the university's Board of Governors purchased a house for President Indira Samarasekera. If you could have anything purchased for the SU President by Students' Council, what would it be?

**Tighe:** The presidential Ferrari. The licence plate would have to say "exec," with a racing stripe to make it go faster. And there would be spinners, of course, with the most obnoxiously loud bass you could get. And let's not forget the high-pitched exhaust. That's key.

**Dr. Horrible:** An Indira Samarasekera toupee. I feel like it's a stunning example of a bad hair job, which would enhance my horribleness, and instill instant terror.

## BoG candidate pushes student engagement

*The Board of Governors Representative sits on the university's Board of Governors, which is responsible for tuition levels, managing campus finances, and approving new buildings.*

Compiled by Kaitlyn Grant

**1** Why are you running for a position on the Board of Governors representative?

**Raphael Lepage Fortin:** This year, I got really involved with student government and so forth and I really enjoyed it. And I thought to myself, 'I could do a lot more than just this.' So I decided to present myself for Board of Governors, and this way I could voice my concerns and look at innovative ways to talk to students and voice their concerns also. It really gives me the chance to use my creativity and engage myself in student life and student government at the same time.

**2** Recently, the SU passed a policy that the BoG representative must vote against tuition increases. What is your position on

tuition increases?

**Lepage Fortin:** I am going to be voting against any tuition increases if it does come up. What was discussed in council was that the SU will not support the BoG in voting in favour for tuition increases. What I am currently looking at, is I am going to be voting against tuition increases unless there is a huge benefit for students for me to be voting that way. I won't be going to the discussion open to it — I'll be against it while walking in. That way we are going to have to be looking at different ways, instead of using that as a last result. Instead, I will be pushing for looking at our different resources at the university and seeing if we can reallocate our budgets or work on our investments and so forth to find that money if we need it, instead of just milking students.

**3** Name a decision that the BoG has made this past year that you strongly disagreed with?

**Lepage Fortin:** The tuition increases, for one. There hasn't been too many decisions that the BoG has made [...]

I don't find that I am in complete disagreement with how [current BoG representative Craig Turner] has voted.

**4** Name a decision that the BoG has made this past year that you strongly agreed with?

**Lepage Fortin:** The abstention that was made by the president was well thought-out, until information was obtained about [Residence] Community Standards. I find that an abstention was well noted. [Editor's note: SU President Nick Dehod, who sits on the BoG, abstained from a vote about Residence Community Standards because he didn't have enough information.]

**5** If you could be Indira Samarasekera for a day, how would you use your newfound power?

**Lepage Fortin:** If I was her, I would hold a conference and just talk to people for a whole day. Because I find that sharing my opinion would really take a hold on them and that way, I could make a difference in people's lives.



# Godzilla challenges Iskandar for VP External position

*The Vice President External is responsible for Students' Union relations with government and the larger community, and develops policy on issues such as post-secondary funding, co-ordinating provincial and national lobbying efforts, and improving the public profile of students and their concerns.*

Compiled by Hayley Dunning

**1** What skills and experience would you bring to the role of Vice President (External)?

**Farid Iskandar:** The first skill I have is that I was on SU Council this year and I represent the Faculty of Engineering. That gives me two skills. First. I understand a bit about the SU. It takes a long time to understand the SU and I understand a bit about the structure, and I have debating skills that I gained from that experience. The second skill I have is I used to be a really apathetic student; I didn't care much about the SU, so I understand what it's like to be an apathetic student, so I can connect to that.

**Godzilla:** I have a lot of experience running the Monster Island. I was the king there for a number of years, and that's given me a lot of experience managing and voicing issues and controlling situations.

**2** What is your stance on mandatory non-instructional fees?

**Iskandar:** The current definition of mandatory non-instructional fees is

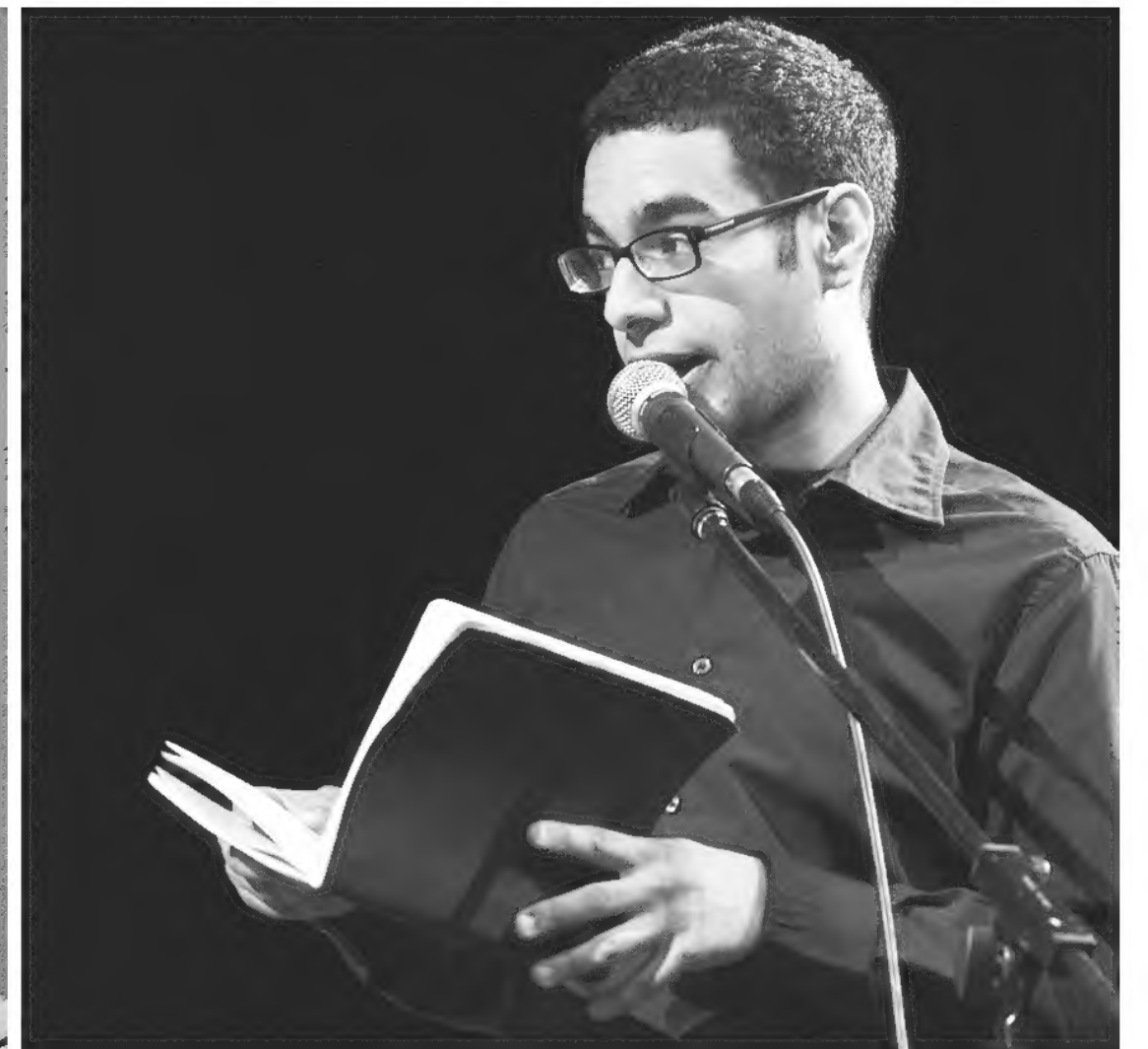
very vague. The second goal of my campaign is to regulate mandatory non-instructional fees by giving them a better definition and making sure the university doesn't use mandatory non-instructional fees as another word for tuition. Tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees are two separate things; tuition is for everything that is essential for your degree; mandatory non-instructional fees should be for recreation, mental health, transportation. So a clearer definition is the simple answer.

**Godzilla:** They should be crushed and destroyed. It's excessive; if you're already going to school, you're already paying \$6,000 in tuition, and that money could be spent better doing better things such as defensive measures against Mothra and extra-terrestrials.

**3** How will you set yourself apart from your predecessor Aden Murphy?

**Iskandar:** I think I'm naturally different than [him]. I don't think I need to do anything specific to separate myself from [him]. The only thing I disagree with [Murphy] on is tax credit — the fact that he wants to move \$10 million of tax credit to student grants. That's the only real difference between the two of us.

**Godzilla:** I would like to improve campus. I feel we could improve the technology available on campus by breaking down what we have. I'm a very strong advocate of improvement through destruction. If you look at



SAM BROOKS

**FIGHTING THE FEES** Both Godzilla and Iskandar, running for VP (External), hope to regulate mandatory non-instructional fees.

Tokyo, I've broken that 15 times now, and it's helped them develop technology such as the Absolute Zero Cannon, which is incredibly advanced and well beyond our time. They've also created Mechagodzilla, which is a technological marvel. I feel that if we implement that strategy here, we too can soon have our own giant robot monsters.

**4** How do you intend to get students more involved in government politics?

**Iskandar:** The first [thing] is on-campus polling stations for multiple constituencies. What this means is students whose original residence is outside of Edmonton could come to campus and vote for that constituency. I think that would make it a lot simpler for them than the older process of having to do

all the paperwork. Second thing is more debates on campus: inviting parties to debate different platforms. [Murphy's] already worked on that, but I want to do more of that. The third thing is to use social media to try and create a dialogue between students and different parties.

**Godzilla:** As you know, student advocacy is at an all-time low, so I think the most important thing is to get people interested. In order to make it interesting, I think there should be a life-or-death situation. It should be mandatory that you vote or you will be sent to Monster Island where you will face the trials that are presented there: Gamera, Mothra, and similar situations.

**5** This year you're up against Godzilla. What would be your counter-monster in an epic battle?

**Iskandar:** I think I would be Mubarak, the previous Egyptian president. I think his 30 years of commitment is definitely a strong character that would beat Godzilla.

**6** You are Godzilla. If it came to hand-to-hand combat, what move would you use to finish off your opponent?

**Godzilla:** I have always had a strong issue of using atomic fire, which has served me well in the past. I feel that compared to any other student candidate, I have the most experience in hand-to-hand combat. So usually I like to go with the "throw your giant bodies together and thrash around" technique. It's pretty difficult to manoeuvre in my giant rubber suit, so that usually does the trick. But, when in doubt, atomic fire and stomping.

## ENTRIES DUE THIS FRIDAY!

**PRIZES! FAME!  
NOT SO MUCH  
FORTUNE!  
BUT PRIZES!**

**W**e're holding a contest devoted to finding the best short fiction and photography that students on this campus have to offer. This contest is open to any U of A student who's decent at prose or can click a picture, and who isn't already a Gateway volunteer. Winners will have their entries published in a late March issue of the Gateway, and there'll even be some awesome prizes to be given away.

**E**ntries will be judged on both creativity and style by a panel of editors. Submissions must be original and must not have been published elsewhere. **Please submit entries to [literarycontest@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:literarycontest@gateway.ualberta.ca) with the subject head "Gateway Literary Contest."** and the category you're entering. Please include your name, program, and year with your entry. Contestants may only enter each category once.

THE GATEWAY





compiled by simon yackulic  
photographed by matt hirji

# Election Dissection

Elections can be confusing at the best of times. To help students cut through the rhetoric tossed around by candidates and cast an informed vote, *The Gateway* has put together our annual Election Dissection. We've brought together a panel of Students' Union experts to make sense of the confusing campaign points, buzzwords, and obscure promises. Our panel this year draws experience from previous external undergraduate advocacy, student group engagement, and first-hand campaign knowledge. The panel met mid-way through the election campaign on March 4.

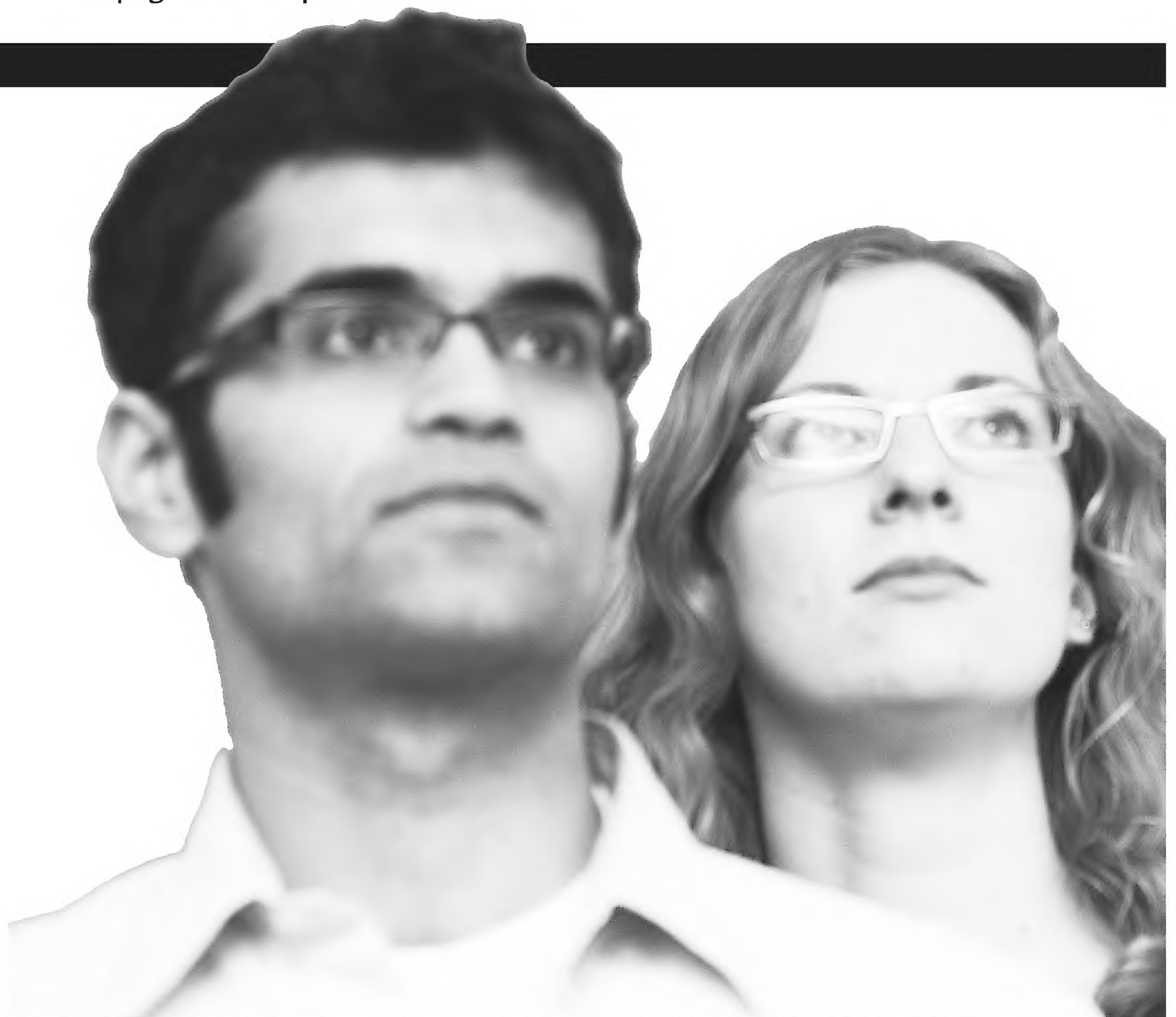
## The Panel

**Beverly Eastham** spent six years at the U of A, serving as Vice President (External) from 2008-10. While she didn't seek a third term in last year's election, she did run the Yes side for the U-Pass referendum, which passed with 89 per cent of votes cast in favour.

Former SU councillor **Jon Mastel** was President of the Keyano College Students' Association for three years. He has recent campaign experience after he took a run at VP (External) last year against Aden Murphy.

**Adam Zepp**, a former SU councillor, has election experience honed by his run for president last year against Nick Dehod.

A self-described SU "outsider," **Avnish Nanda** has been involved in a number of student groups at the U of A, such as Stand With Fort Chipewyan and the Student Umbrella for Social Justice. Nanda's blog *Straight Outta Edmonton* has covered a range of issues at the university and is widely read by U of A and Edmonton audiences alike.





Board of Governors Representative

The panel started their discussion with what they described as the most disappointing race of the election, with only **Raphael Lepage Fortin** — who goes by “Raph” — running for Board of Governors Representative. The panelists said they felt this race exemplified how this year’s candidates seemed unable to engage the student body.

Eastham was concerned about Lepage Fortin’s incomprehensible posters and the general demeanour that he’s demonstrated towards the election. Calling his posters “unprofessional,” Eastham asked why he would feature a pig in his campaign material when he’s running for a position that demands professionalism.

“He has no idea. Absolutely none, unfortunately,” Eastham said. “The BoG is an incredibly professional group of individuals and we have one student from the SU who goes and represents the rest of the student body. In addition to the [SU] President, we only have one other student position on the board. And we need that person to be incredibly professional and incredibly articulate and able to bring the student perspective. I don’t think Raph grasps what exactly he would be asked to do.”

The panel also commented on how Raph left the Lister forum early, which Mastel felt conflicted with a platform that emphasizes communication.

“So, he wants to engage students by not actually taking their questions?” Mastel asked.

“To be fair, I think he’s trying to say there’s a disconnect. People don’t understand the BoG’s role and what they do, but I don’t think he has a way to actually convey that to the student body. And that’s a problem if he’s actually going to take that position,” Nanda added, noting that it was hard to understand why Raph was using a pig as a symbol for his campaign.

President

As the sole presidential candidate, aside from joke candidate **Dr. Horrible**, the panel expressed their belief that **Rory Tighe** has a special

responsibility in re-engaging the campus. One of Tighe’s major campaign points this year is student engagement, but Mastel said that it isn’t as easy as Tighe seems to think.

“You can’t just create a Twitter and everything falls into place. You can’t create a YouTube channel and everything just falls into place. [Engagement is] a hard, complex issue,” Mastel said. “You may be able to tweet with computing sciences students really easily, but we have a campus of 30,000-plus students. Engaging all of them, and the matter you have to go about that, varies greatly. Different students go about it different ways.”

Mastel said that beyond the vague point on engagement, Tighe’s platform has no concrete goals or vision.

“There’s no common thread between his points. There’s no ‘come students, rally around this.’ [...] He doesn’t seem to have a grand vision like Dehod [did] last year with mental health. He had Fall Reading Week, which was because of mental health, and it was all tied together,” Mastel said. “[Tighe] wants more student space. But what else? Student experience. Is this for some grandiose thing or is he just throwing out catchphrases and hoping students will be like ‘oh, I like that, student space is good.’”

Eastham critiqued Tighe’s handling of the election forums and said that even though his only competition is a joke candidate, he should still present a professional image when being questioned.

“[Tighe] has to know that if he asks the joke candidate a question, the joke candidate can answer as a joke. Rory Tighe, running for president, cannot. His answers need to be real,” she said.

However, Eastham said that one thing working in Tighe’s favour is that he does have some experience in the SU as an executive, having served as Vice President (Student Life) this year.

“In a year when no one else is running for president, I think it’s important to have somebody who has been on executive running, and that gives me some confidence that he’s been exposed to what goes on in the SU. But I don’t think he’s pushed himself enough in his presidential campaign. He’s got these three main points, but I’d like him to talk more in-depth

about what he’s going to do.”

Nanda agreed with Eastham’s assessment that Tighe may be a good candidate, but he hasn’t given the everyday student a reason to value his campaign.

“He’s missing engagement,” Nanda said. “All his points are great, innovative ideas. He looks like he’ll be a good president. But he’s missing a big issue. And by missing that big issue, I don’t know if he gets it. People who aren’t involved in the SU, [in] the hack community, don’t see the SU as having any value to them.”

Zepp added that Tighe’s experience in Lister might not necessarily be a positive, as he hasn’t accounted for the differences between Lister and the rest of the U of A.

“I think his greatest weakness was that [Tighe] was president of Lister, where engagement isn’t really an issue. When you come to the campus as a whole, it’s a big issue. Maybe he just missed the boat on this one,” Zepp said.

Vice President (External)

The panel was quick to point out that **Farid Iskandar’s** policies were simply taken from already existing positions in student lobby organizations and don’t offer anything insightful.

“I think it shows that he has a base level understanding of what needs to be done, but what I’m not getting from him is: Who is [Iskandar]? What does he want to do? What is his vision? [...] What is his vision of the future? What does it look like for students?” Eastham wondered when discussing the uncontested candidate vying for her old position.

Nanda was displeased that Iskandar didn’t have any points in his platform on how students would be involved in advocacy.

“There’s no mention of how he’s going to engage students throughout his term and how he’s going to include them in the decision-making process, which is disappointing,” he said.

There was confusion about the point in Iskandar’s platform that calls for limiting tuition to CPI, which is a regulation that has been in place since 2006. Eastham was concerned that this wasn’t the only issue Iskandar was confused about.

“Because it’s a complex set of issues, there are little things that perhaps he has not quite connected. He’s been talking about how tuition could be considered a mandatory non-instructional fee. Well, no, tuition is clearly the only instructional fee. But the way the guidelines at the provincial level can be read, you can put things in there that are basically tuition by another name,” Eastham said.

Eastham also lamented the lack of another candidate in this race, which she felt would’ve forced Iskandar to flesh out his platform.

“Again, this is where I think if you had someone running against him, you would start to bring out the richness of each candidate and strengthen each platform,” she said, though Eastham said she figured that Iskandar could do the job. “I’m reasonably confident that he’ll be able to learn the issues and do a good job of advocacy at the municipal, provincial, and federal level.”

However, looking at his platform laid out in his posters and website, the panel was concerned with what seemed like disjointed positions, with Zepp saying that Iskandar’s ideas seemed to be “all over the place” and Mastel agreeing.

“If you have your goals, you can say ‘this is my platform, and this is my platform explained.’ I can’t even tell you what I’d pull out [of his platform]. I know what he’s trying to say, but I look and I wonder if these points are his goals or just points of information,” Mastel added.

Vice President (Academic)

The panel critiqued many of **Emerson Csorba’s** platform points and questioned if his campaign could also have used some competition to force him to strengthen his platform.

“One of his major points was pairing mentors with first-year students. As a former first-year student, I’m not sure that that’s something I’d want to have,” Mastel said.

“I do like his point about research,” Eastham said. “The point is good, and [it’s] something the SU has been working on for a while — saying that if we’re spending all this money on research and we’re trying to be a research-grooming institution, then the undergraduates should at

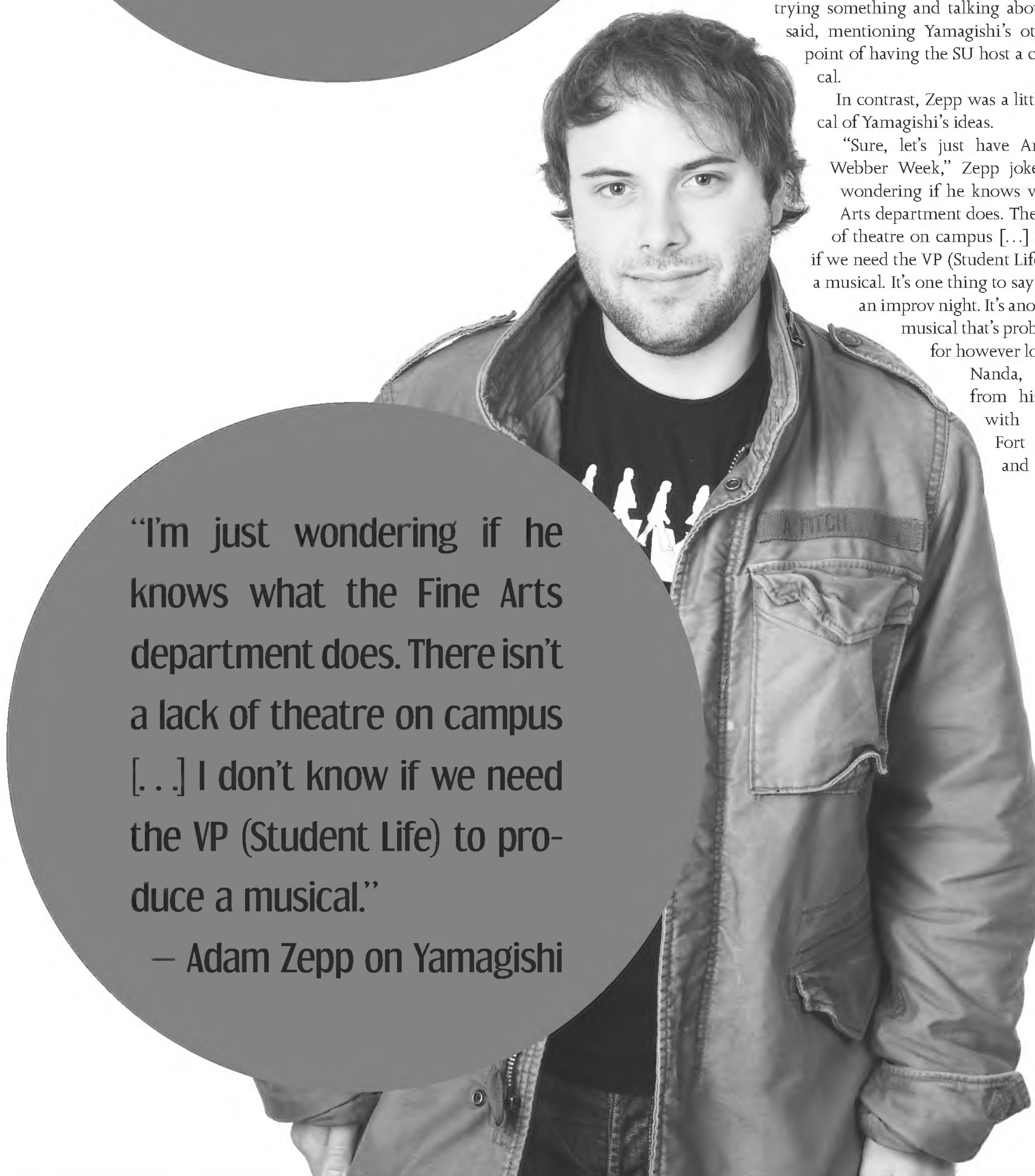






“If the SU and student councillors started better explaining the value in the positions, then there would be a huge difference.”

— Avnish Nanda



“I’m just wondering if he knows what the Fine Arts department does. There isn’t a lack of theatre on campus [...] I don’t know if we need the VP (Student Life) to produce a musical.”

— Adam Zepp on Yamagishi

least leave [having been] exposed to that. But then again, I think it’s not as clearly laid out in speeches and different things as if he was running against someone.”

The panel was concerned that, without any competition, Csorba had chosen some complex issues as his platform points and neglected to explain them in language that students could grasp.

“Picking graduate attributes as a platform point is interesting. Kudos to him for picking it, but that’s a hard one to get across,” Eastham said.

“You have to be pretty awesome to convey that appropriately and, well, he didn’t,” Zepp added.

The panel noted that a lack of opposition might have allowed Csorba to be lazy in platform development.

“If there’s no one forcing you to explain your points, you still have to flesh them out,” Mastel said.

“Maybe if there was a candidate running against him, those ideas would be fleshed out easier. [Even if you’re unopposed], this isn’t a pass at all,” Nanda added.

### Vice President (Student Life)

Of all the races, the competition between **David McBean** and **Colten Yamagishi** for VP (Student Life) received the few accolades the panel doled out.

Between the two candidates, some of the panel favoured Yamagishi’s ideas as more original and fresh.

“The only race that I’m seeing some new ideas in is for VP (Student Life), and those ideas are coming from Yamagishi, not from McBean,” Eastham said. “The idea about having a thrift store in SUB — I don’t know how it will work. I like the idea though. I think it’s interesting. It might offer something to students [...] There’s also the Sexual and Gender Diversity Centre. Who knows, that might get more female candidates running in SU elections.”

“I am glad they’re putting it out there — they’re trying something and talking about it,” Nanda said, mentioning Yamagishi’s other platform point of having the SU host a campus musical.

In contrast, Zepp was a little more critical of Yamagishi’s ideas.

“Sure, let’s just have Andrew Lloyd Webber Week,” Zepp joked. “I’m just wondering if he knows what the Fine Arts department does. There isn’t a lack of theatre on campus [...] I don’t know if we need the VP (Student Life) to produce a musical. It’s one thing to say we’re having an improv night. It’s another to have a musical that’s probably running for however long”

Nanda, speaking from his experience with Stand With Fort Chipewyan and the Student

Umbrella for Social Justice, praised McBean’s idea of encouraging student group collaboration.

“I really like McBean’s point of collaboration — having student groups come together and foster collaboration,” Nanda said.

However, Mastel doesn’t feel the SU needs to take the lead all the time when it comes to dealing with student groups.

“If a student group wants to collaborate with another student group or the SU, you can’t just assume that because the SU has a service that allows you to confer with other groups, that they should have the lead for all these events.”

Despite the panel’s disagreements on the specific platform points of the candidates, they did agree that there were quite a few similarities and that neither campaign was tackling engagement as well as they could be.

“I’d say they’re about 85 per cent similar, and then in that last 15 per cent, they each have some interesting new ideas. Unfortunately, there’s not a lot about engagement in there. I hope in the last week, they really try to distinguish themselves,” Zepp said.

“People haven’t gone as in-depth in their platforms as I’d have liked, even in this VP (Student Life) contested race,” Eastham added. “And though they’ve started at least to have original ideas, I don’t think they’re well formed. And people have made some really bizarre plays at trying to get people interested in their campaigns which I think are just falling flat, such as sheep and pigs and ties and Obama posters.”

### Vice President (Operations and Finance)

The panel felt that **Andy Cheema**, the sole candidate for Vice President (Operations and Finance), is running on a platform that is lacking in specifics.

“You know what annoyed me most about his platform? He wants to increase the quality and options of beverages on campus. But how?” Mastel asked.

“Even his SUB plans are just to renovate the lower level,” Zepp added, explaining that such a general plan wasn’t helpful.

The panel also speculated that a lot of Cheema’s plans seemed to be simply a continuation of the plans and projects of current VP (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman. Eastham, however, noted that the position does require some continuity and stability between years.

“To be fair, VP (Operations and Finance) is probably the hardest race to run for, because a good VP (OpsFi) just keeps the place running well. Does that mean there’s no room for new ideas? Absolutely not. But there is some consistency needed there. If we kept changing our plans for how to design SUB, then it would be chaos,” she said.

Mastel expressed a concern that Cheema, like the other candidates, could have improved his platform if he was challenged by competition, but as it is, Cheema just used buzzwords.

“He wants to increase the amount of student space in SUB. There is a finite amount of space in SUB. He’s throwing out catchphrases. People like student groups, people like student space,” Mastel said.

Zepp agreed with Cheema’s platform points that food quality should be improved on campus, and joked that Cheema at least appeared ready to assume the role.

“He looks trustworthy enough. I’d trust him with my money,” Zepp said.

### Fall Reading Plebiscite

The Fall Reading Week plebiscite was a launching point for debate among the panel, who



“I think the bigger concern in this election is the lack of people running.”

— Beverly Eastham

disagreed on the need to ask for a student vote on the initiative.

“I can expect that the turnout at this election will be at an all-time low, lower than last year. So sure, it’s an important decision, but isn’t there a more effective way of getting student opinion?” Zepp asked.

Zepp pointed out that current President Nick Dehod was elected on a platform that included developing a Fall Reading Week, and since students obviously approved of the platform, he questioned what the point was of asking students to vote on it again.

“It would make me think that the people who vote in elections, who are the same people every year, want a Fall Reading Week. I think sending out the question again to pretty much the same people... I don’t know [if it’s worthwhile].”

However, Eastham felt that it was necessary to have students express their opinions on the proposed Fall Reading Week through a plebiscite.

“It’s possible that this is one of those process pieces that the SU needs in order to move forward with the university, so the SU can go to the university and say, ‘Hey, we have a decision from students that are in favour,’” Eastham explained. “Then the university has that from students and it’s not just the SU saying they consulted with people who are in favour.”

Mastel felt this plebiscite might be the only thing that students should head to the polls for.

“I’d say this referendum is one of the few saving graces this election actually has — something students should go out to vote for. If students don’t go out and vote for the candidates, everyone who I think is going to be elected is going to be elected. [None of the Above] usually doesn’t beat somebody in an election,” Mastel said.

### The NOTA Vote

The panel discussed the option of voting for None of the Above (NOTA) and seemed to reach a consensus that it was a valid option for students, especially in the BoG race.

“If I was able to vote, I wouldn’t NOTA vote for everyone, but I personally would NOTA vote for BoG. I’d be on the fence for VP (OpsFi),” Eastham said. “I think it’s an incredibly important option that students can say, ‘actually having nobody in this position would be better than having this person,’ especially when you don’t have opposition to the candidates.”

Mastel agreed with Eastham about the validity of NOTA, noting that just because an individual is the only candidate in the election doesn’t mean they shouldn’t work for the votes of students.

“Definitely NOTA for BoG. I guess the problem I have with most of the other candidates is that I don’t think they’ll do a bad job, but just because they won’t fail does not necessarily mean they should be elected.

I actually want to say that I’m not sure if I would vote for Tighe. I don’t know,” Mastel said.

Mastel explained that the candidates haven’t gone the distance in appealing for student votes this election.

“Again, it’s not because [...] any of these candidates have a massive flaw in their campaign or what they want to do, but they honestly don’t seem like they get it. They’re a few bricks short of a full campaign. There’s just something not there. Sometimes nobody is better than the options you have,” Mastel added.

The other panelists expressed similar sentiments about the lack of a viable candidate for BoG Representative.

“Just NOTA for BoG, for now. NOTA is my default vote until someone earns it,” Nanda added.

“I’d do NOTA for BoG. Maybe Cheema too,” Zepp said.

### A lack of engagement, a lack of females

The panel was generally disappointed in the lack of contested races this year and felt the candidates were failing in their duty of engaging the U of A’s undergraduate student population. They went on to discuss the reasons why so few people are running for election in the SU. For the six positions, only one race is contested by anything more than a joke candidate — and all the candidates are males.

“There’s nothing really exciting — no one really cares. It’s similar to previous years, but this is more pronounced,” Nanda commented.

“It seems like people just aren’t putting as much effort into the elections, and I think that’s because it’s uncontested. Most of the candidates — and I say most, not all — have a general understanding of what the position they’re contesting is, but because they’re not contested, they’re not going into that depth of what they’re going to do specifically, what new initiatives they’re going to be bringing, why we should elect them.

I don’t think that depth is there,” Eastham said.

While none of the races have female candidates, Eastham said the problem wasn’t who was running, but the low number of contestants.

“I think there are lots of strong opportunities on campus to

get involved, be it for male or females. I think the bigger concern in this election is the lack of people running, be it male or female, international students, [or] students with families,” she said. “If you increase the number of candidates running, you’ll increase the numbers of females in the mix.”

According to Nanda, many students don’t understand why they should run for the executive.

“I’ve been approached throughout my years to run for student councillor or an executive position, but I’ve never been shown the value of that position [...] If the SU and student councillors started better explaining the value in the positions, then there would be a huge difference. There is value in getting involved in student politics, but it isn’t being demonstrated,” Nanda said, noting that without stopping the slide of interest in the SU, the union’s relevance could be severely compromised.

Eastham added that without an opposing figure forcing candidates to dig deeper into their platforms, they are unlikely to fully unveil their views.

“How are students going to be able to choose the candidate best suited to serve them when that candidate doesn’t have anyone really cross-examining them, asking them harder questions, getting harder into the platform, figuring what they’re really here to do?” Eastham said.

“The SU has become very rigid almost in terms of its structure and how it deals with things. I don’t think you can be rigid if you’re going to be a governance organization,” Zepp said. “You have to include everyone. The reason people I’ve talked to said they don’t want to get involved have been, ‘those SU people don’t have any idea what they’re doing.’ I don’t think it’s fair — I disagree with a lot of things [those people] say.

But [the SU] isn’t helping to change that perception.”

“They’re a few bricks short of a full campaign, there’s just something not there. Sometimes nobody is better than the options you have.”

—Jon Mastel



## None of the Above could be the best option

TOMORROW, SOME STUDENTS WILL GO TO THE Students' Union website to cast their votes in the executive election. However, the vast majority will tell the two days of voting pass without so much as a nod of recognition. With seven candidates running for six positions, it's not surprising that many students won't bother to vote. But those who do should be aware that even in uncontested races, you're not obligated to support the sole candidate. Our SU has seen fit to provide us with a useful option that doesn't require us to spoil our ballots in order to make a point about the lack of a viable candidate: we can vote for None of the Above.

In several of the uncontested races this year, candidates have given the impression that they don't believe they're required to work for our votes. The unopposed candidates — Rory Tighe for President, Farid Iskandar for VP (External), Emerson Csorba for VP (Academic), Andy Cheema for VP (Operations and Finance), and Raphael Lepage Fortin for Board of Governors Representative — don't have the motivation of an opponent to put forth strong campaigns. This can result in undeveloped platforms and campaigns that are far from inspirational.

Our soon-to-be SU President's campaign speaks to a lack of effort; his campaign promises offer very few new or innovative points. Tighe hopes to resurrect the doomed Powerplant, install more plasma screen TVs across campus, and somehow convince people to volunteer for the SU, but he's very vague on the details of how he's going to accomplish a feat that presidents before him have been trying to do for years.

Csorba and Iskandar's campaign materials give the impression they're not entirely sure what job they're applying for. Csorba's posters contain vague promises about balancing "school and self," while one of Iskandar's buzzwords is the inexplicable "fidelity." In Csorba's case, his poor campaign detracts from what could be good ideas about the university's Academic Plan; for Iskandar, it only highlights how little he seems to understand what the VP (External) does.

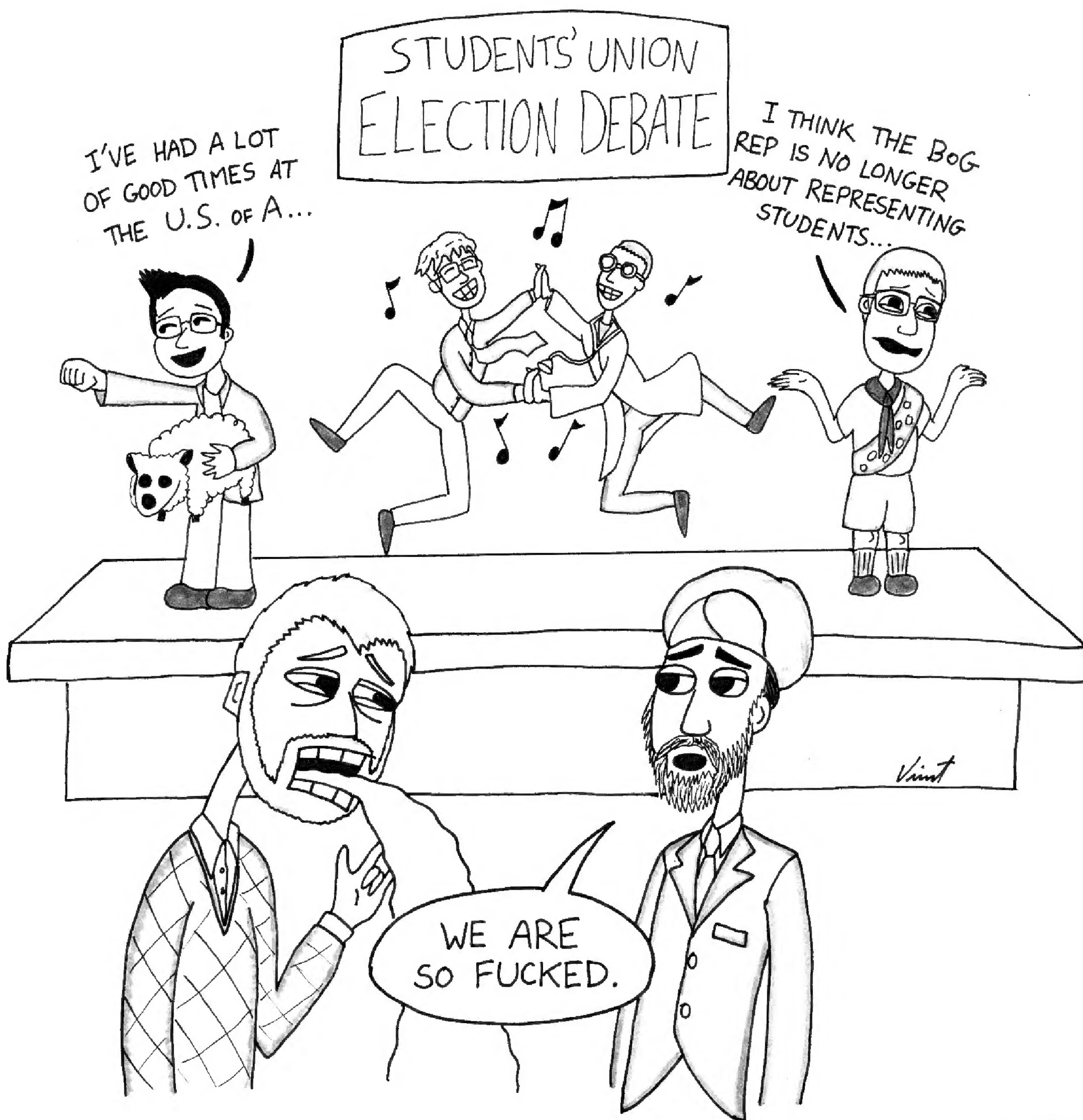
Perhaps the worst of the bunch is the BoG Representative candidate Lepage Fortin, who goes by "Raph." At Friday's Greek Forum, his platform was to assure attendees that he has "a leadership role, and [is] very, very well qualified" to be the BoG Representative, before promising a BoG Twitter account and video blogs. Lepage Fortin explained that he left the Lister forum early because of a prior engagement; clearly, representing students to the Board of Governors is this candidate's number one priority. Or not — at the Monday Horowitz forum, he stated that he no longer believes that the BoG Representative position is about representing students. This, in addition to his utterly nonsensical campaign materials featuring a pig, should make students wonder how qualified he really is.

Students must ask themselves if a candidate's presence on the ballot is a good enough reason to vote them into office for an organization with a \$10 million budget. If their platform makes no sense, and if they couldn't even be bothered to take the time to read the job description for their position, then we shouldn't be ticking the box next to their name.

If a candidate loses to None of the Above, nominations will reopen and students will vote on the position a second time along with the student councillor elections later this month. With a little luck, we might then get some competition and possibly even decent applicants for a few of these positions. Perhaps students who see how poor this year's crop of candidates is will be inspired to put their own names forward.

If you intend to vote in this election, consider whether the candidates have demonstrated their qualification for the position with their platform points, the efforts they've put into their campaigns, and their answers to questions posed to them in the forums. If not, None of the Above is your opportunity to demand better representation, to insist on student politicians who will actually perform well in the job we're granting them and earn the \$33,000 a year we're about to pay the incoming executives.

**ALIX KEMP**  
Opinion Editor



ROSS VINCENT

### letters TO THE eds

#### Offenders responsible for sexual assault

RE: ("Refusing advice to avoid sexual assault is naïve," *Letters*, March 3)

What any cop, prosecutor, or sexual assault advocate will actually tell you is that the solid majority of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim, such as a friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, acquaintance, relative, or family friend. These cannot be prevented by avoiding travel by night and dressing modestly, as most of them occur in the home. Therefore, those "reasonable precautions" aren't going to help at all.

In addition, sexual assault is now defined as any unwanted sexual contact, not just forced vaginal sex. As this includes, for example, being pressured to do more sexually than you actually want, men can be, and are, sexually assaulted. In one study of high school students, almost as many boys as girls had been pressured into sexual activity they did not want. Not all sexual assault victims are women, and not all perpetrators are men, especially taking more diverse sexual orientations into account.

To suggest that any precaution will guarantee that one won't be sexually assaulted is a lie, and a way of placing responsibility for the assault on the victim, because if they were

assaulted, then they must not have taken those proper precautions. The true blame lies with the perpetrator, as it does with any crime.

HEATHER GEROW  
Arts IV

### from THE web

#### Residence Services stifles Lister democracy

RE: ("Candidate rejected from Lister presidential elections," *Simon Yackulic*, March 2)

I haven't lived in Lister for almost two years, but these *Gateway* articles from the last few weeks have reminded me how dysfunctional the relationship is between Lister residents and the university. The "On The Beat" feature described how University Protective Services officers wander around Lister "to ensure everyone is abiding by the rules," i.e., looking for violations that no one who actually lives in the residence cares enough to complain about. I wonder how these same officers would feel if Edmonton police wandered around the common areas of their apartment buildings, asking to see their ID and confronting them about strange smells.

And now there is this story, which shows how the Residence Services nanny state is alive and well and running the show in the residence. The LHSA should be embarrassed

that its constitution lets Residence Services have veto power over who can run in its elections. I guess the university figures no one cares about democracy as long as they still have their dodgeball.

Maybe one day the university administration will wake up and realize that the student experience in Lister is so much better than most other Canadian residences not because of them, but *despite* them. But I wouldn't bet on it. To Residence Services and Campus 5-0, Lister is apparently not much more than a "risk" to be "managed." It's too bad that success in the bleak and joyless world of university administration is measured by whether you keep insurance rates down and keep the school out of the news, instead of considering whether you have helped students grow into leadership positions, make life-long friendships, or learn to be independent thinkers.

"MY NAME HERE"  
Via Internet

#### Interference in LHSA elections is reasonable

RE: ("Candidate rejected from Lister presidential elections," *Simon Yackulic*, March 2)

Calling Lister students responsible is ridiculous.

That's the party, binge drinking, and a high drop-out rate dorm. Anyone who disagrees probably hasn't been to Lister. I'm not saying all Listerites are irresponsible, but on

average they sure are. It's the same reason everyone has to pay extra for damaged crap dumbasses cause every year.

If the Residence Services felt strongly enough about blocking him, they probably had a reason.

They've been doing what they're doing a lot longer than the average person has been in Lister.

"ANONYMOUS"  
Via Internet

#### Referenda are a lot like Nickelback

RE: ("Council Forum," *Simon Yackulic*, March 3)

Why would we have a referendum if we have elected officials? This isn't a plebiscitary democracy, it's a representative democracy. Nothing says increasing apathy like putting every decision to a referendum. You know, that and every \$2,000 tied to that referendum in campaign fees. Referendums sound great in theory, but I'm sure Nickelback sounded good. In theory.

"LE SIGH"  
Via Internet

*Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered to SUB 3-04.*

*Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study, to be considered for publication.*



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2011

MEET THE SU EXECUTIVE, BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND APIRG CANDIDATES

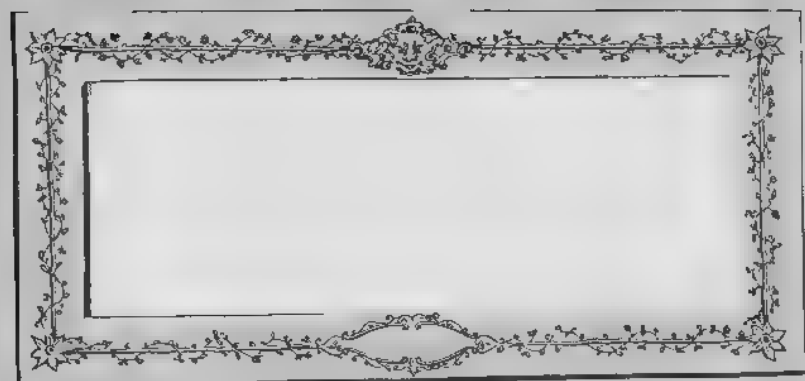
VOTE ON  
MARCH  
9 & 10

## STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT



RORY  
TIGHE

VS



DR. HORRIBLE  
(JOKE CANDIDATE)

### Hi Everyone,

My name is Rory Tighe and I running for the position of President of your Students' Union. I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta and came to the University of Alberta in 2007 after taking a year off to travel. I am currently in my fourth year of an Arts degree with a focus in Economics. Currently I serve as your Vice President (Student Life) of the Students' Union and previously served as the President of the Lister Hall Students' Association. If I am elected as your President, I would prioritize the following:

**Student Space:** By increasing the quality and quantity of student space, we can showcase our student groups, improve services, and build a stronger community. We can do this by:

- Reinventing the Power Plant
- Renovating the lower level of SUB

- Building quality student space in the PAW Centre

**External Advocacy:** External advocacy is always important for the Students' Union but will be particularly vital next year with the potential for upcoming provincial and federal elections. We will need to push for: - Increased funding for Post Secondary Education - Stronger mandatory non-instructional fee regulation - More accessible voting capabilities for students

**Student Experience:** By building stronger lines of communication, the Students' Union becomes more effective and increases the quality of the student experience. We can do this by: - Expanding Infolink - Expanding SUBtv - Increasing the SU's volunteer base

For more information please visit  
[www.votetighe.ca](http://www.votetighe.ca)

We left a message with the Evil League Of Evil, but the Doctor hasn't returned our call.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE



RAPHAEL  
LEPAGE FORTIN

**My name is Raphael Lepage Fortin and I am running for the Undergraduate Representative Board of Governors position.** I am a second year education student at Campus Saint-Jean with a goal of teaching French as a second language (FSL) at a high school level. I have been an SU councilor, sat on the policy committee, the audit committee, the budget and finance committee, the GFC, the RHA, the ARFSJ, am the Vice President Executive and chair of the Chapter Review Board of Delta Upsilon, and an orientation Team Facilitator. I love to get involved and learn from my experiences and my peers. I am honest and respectful, and will share my thoughts and time on the Board of Governors.

My platform:

I want this year to try to reconcile students with university governance. I strongly believe that there is a strong separation between students

and the governing bodies. Students are feeling alienated with the university. I will be running on promotion of communication, awareness and transparency.

**Communication:** Voting should not only be "vote for the person that will vote like you" but more like "vote for the person that will ask you what you think". To achieve this I will work with the SU and partake in town halls and their promotion. I will also look into the possibility of student resident representation on community leagues so that issues, or relations with neighboring communities are well dealt with.

**Awareness:** Students need to understand and be aware of the choices that are being made. Especially when it affects them directly. I will make reports available each following Monday after a BoG meeting. These reports will elaborate and contextualize on discussions and developments.



## VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE



**COLTEN  
YAMAGISHI**

VS



**DAVID  
MCBEAN**

**Hey guys! My name is Colten Yamagishi and I am running for the position of VPSL.** I am a third year marketing student in the Faculty of Business and have been heavily involved with the Students' Union throughout my undergraduate career. I have served on Student Council for two years, General Faculties Council for three, and I am a member of the Student Life Events Committee. I have worked as a Floor Coordinator in Lister Hall and am currently the editor of the Lister Newspaper (The Lighthouse). I have also been a member of the Greek Community for three years as a proud member of FIJI.

My platform revolves around three main dimensions, or the 3D's, as I like to call them.

- Diversify Events: Expand the range and variety of events and push for things like an SU musi-

cal, more movie nights, and supporting the Break the Record program. These changes will increase event accessibility and foster engagement by broadening the appeal of SU events to the campus community.

- Develop Services: Fill the service gap by introducing new services such as a Sexual and Gender Diversity Center, a Spring/Summer U-Pass, and a Student Thrift Store in SUB.
- Defend Student Voice: Represent student opinions on issues like new residence changes, tuition increases, and campus alcohol policy.

Overall, I have some big ideas for campus and I'd be honoured to work on them as your next VPSL. So on March 9/10, hit the polls, and Vote Yamagishi!

**In order to create a campus where students feel that they can and want to get involved,** I propose to increase SU-Faculty Collaboration to put on more events that encompass a wide variety of interests; a volunteer pool that SU events and students groups can use for support; and making SU services more accessible to the general student body.

I would like to increase collaboration between the Students' Union and Faculties, Faculty Associations and Student groups to have larger events with more resources. For example, I want to work with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation to have a Homecoming and develop a process where the SU can collaborate with student groups' events in a neutral way.

The Students' Union has great events and programming throughout the year, but sometimes lack volunteer power. The largest addition I would like to make to the Students' Union is a steady, volunteer base to run and advertise the events. These volunteers would not only volunteer for SU events such as WOW but would also volunteer for student groups that needed an extra boost of volunteers for a specific event.

I think students' mental health and nutrition as well as sustainability are vital issues for students, so I support and will streamline moving the Peer Support Center and the Campus Food Bank to more accessible and open locations. I also want to adhere to the recommendations made by the Office of Sustainability's audit of SU operations.

## VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC



**EMERSON  
CSORBA**

**My story goes like this:** In the Fall semester of 2009, I came to the campus with a small group of friends, and little knowledge about my faculty (Campus Saint-Jean) or the university. Within the first two weeks of school, I joined Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji), meeting students from all walks of life. I was soon elected as the councillor for Campus Saint-Jean, and was selected as a Team Facilitator for Orientation. The train essentially began there, and the ride has yet to conclude. Over time, I became a student senator, the president of my community league, a researcher for the Students' Union and a writer for The Gateway.

One thing that I have learned is that undergraduate research is an incredible experience in university, and that students should have the opportunity to participate in it.

As VPA, I will establish our Students' Union's first Undergraduate Research Symposium, which will A) increase the visibility of undergraduate research on campus, B) allow students to showcase their research to the campus community and C) provide awards for outstanding student researchers. Additionally, I view Graduate Attributes (determining the values of U of A graduates) as a highly-valuable university issue. Students need to lead this discussion; whether you are an Arts student that values civic responsibility or a Science student that values cultural awareness, I am looking for your input.

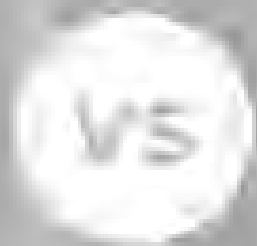
Overall, I hope that these experiences provide a solid foundation for VPA, and allow me to move the SU forward.



VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL



FARID ISKANDAR



GODZILLA (JOKE CANDIDATE)

**My name is Farid Iskandar, and I am in my 4th year of Mining Engineering.** I was born and raised in Egypt, and I came to Canada in order to pursue a post-secondary education. I became Canadian on December 31st 2010. Looking back at my university experience, I can honestly say the best part about it has been my extracurricular activities. I joined the fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta in 2007. There, I occupied two permanent committees and am currently a member of its Cabinet. I served on the Executive of the University of Alberta Atheists and Agnostics (UAAA) in 2009–2010. In addition, I am currently a Students' Union Councillor representing the Faculty of Engineering.

The Vice President (External) of the Students' Union is responsible for representing students'

needs on post secondary issues at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government. This is a huge responsibility that I feel capable of undertaking. If elected, my main goal for 2011-2012 is to increase student voter turnout in the forthcoming provincial elections. A high student voter turnout will convey to the government that students are politically active and that their issues are just as important as those of the province.

**My top three campaign points are to:**

- Provide students with polling stations on campus for multiple constituencies;
- Introduce regulations that sets limits and helps clearly define the purposes of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIF); and
- Work to eliminate the 10% to 15% price premiums from textbooks.

Godzilla had some important business on Monster Island, and couldn't be reached for comment at this time.

VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS & FINANCE



ANDY CHEEMA

**Hey there!** My name is Andy Cheema and I am in my fourth year of a Bachelor of Science degree with a Specialization in Psychology. When I'm not busy with school, I work with the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society as their VP Academic. Additionally, this is my second year being an elected Councillor of the Students' Union. In this capacity, I interact closely with the Operations and Finance portfolio: I chair the Audit Committee, and I sit on the Budget and Finance Committee, the Grant Allocation Committee and the Operations and Finance Advisory Board. Last year, I was the Floor Coordinator on 3 Kelsey, as well as a member of the Operations Committee of the Lister Hall Students' Association.

**My core platform includes three major points.**

- Redesign Lower Level SUB: Initiate renovations to create more functional space, including

more student study and relaxation space, more student group offices and improved accessibility to services.

- Enhance food and Food and Beverage Options: Pursue initiatives to promote food quality and variety, to prioritize the customer experience, and to address students' desire for more choices.
- Strengthen Business Performance: Rethink Students' Union businesses, to better meet students' needs and to ultimately decrease dependence on student fees, while maintaining competitive prices.

If elected, I would also examine the sustainability of our operations, oversee an expansion of our scholarship programs and work to represent students' interests in decisions regarding the new Physical Activity and Wellness Centre.

PLEBISCITE INFORMATION



The following question will appear on the March 9 & 10 Students' Union election ballot:

**Fall Reading Week**

Do you support the Students' Union pursuing the establishment of a Fall Reading Week, subject to the following principles:

- i. classes would begin on the Wednesday before Labour Day (the first Monday of September);

- ii. the Fall Reading Week would occur the same week as Remembrance Day (November 11th);

- iii. the number of instructional days in the Fall Semester would remain at sixty-three (63); and

- iv. the Fall Reading Week would not apply to certain faculties and programs as per the current Winter Reading Week?



## VOTE FOR THE **APIRG** BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### AMINA MOHAMMED

As an Arts student, I've had the opportunity to learn about various issues that affect the community. By running as a board member for APIRG, I hope to

become better involved with the community and the university. As a board member, I will strive to ensure that APIRG works with groups that advocates for student needs and issues. As a minority, I hope to bring a unique perspective to APIRG. I'll try to bring to light issues that relate to certain minority groups by incorporating my outlook into the discussion. Working with APIRG is an opportunity that I would greatly appreciate and I will take every step in fulfilling my responsibilities to the community.



### MITCH CARLSON

I am a philosophy student with an interest in social justice and getting students actively involved in the community. I became involved in APIRG by serving as a proxy for one of

their current board members and was inspired by its ability to assist and mobilize organizations within our community which might otherwise have difficulty finding support. As a board member I would maintain an active interest in encouraging students to get involved, particularly those who wish to be active in the community but may not know where to begin or what options are available. I would also endeavour to encourage dialogue between organizations as I strongly believe that likeminded groups, when aware of each other, can become much more effective by communicating and working together towards a common purpose.



### JUSTIN BARTLETT

Hello all! I am Justin Bartlett, and I spend my academic time as a Women's Studies major. I've been involved with an APIRG working

group for the past two years, participated in many of its amazing workshops, events, and now I want to get more directly involved with APIRG. I see APIRG as a vital piece of the University of Alberta Community, and of Edmonton as a whole. I would like to do my part to help carry out the vision of a progressive future for current and future students. One way I believe this can be achieved is by continually and increasingly fostering the growth and development of a community in which progressive people can feel supported and encouraged, both personally and professionally. I intend to use my own network and APIRG's extensive network to encourage the growth of such a community. We are stronger together and with your vote I can help build that strength. Vote for community!



### SANSITNY RUTH

When I look at APIRG I see a resourceful organization that is ready to open the doors to social change. And anyone who is willing and determined can step through these doors and discover the

vast possibilities in a world that requires us to take action. It is through my own organic inclinations that I have stepped on this path, and it is my deepest desire to continue forward as a member of APIRG's Board of Directors, actively animating the student body and other individuals in the building of the picture that they and myself have envisioned, one that is nothing short of an equitable and harmonious society.



### JIL JORGENSEN

I am an undergraduate student in the department of Human Ecology. I understand how it can be difficult for students to foster a connection to social/environmental justice issues they are

passionate about through coursework alone. I recognize the value of organizations that foster a link between learning that takes place on campus, and the learning & living that exists in the rest of the world. I know APIRG is an excellent resource to help students become engaged in issues and contribute active change. As a member of the Board of Directors for APIRG I want to ensure my peers continue to have access to the tools and resources they need to work towards change. I look forward to learning more about the specific skills I can offer to the rest of the Board as I get to know everyone in the next year.



### MAIGAN VAN DER GEISSEN

I am a 4th year POLS major and MEAS minor, mother, musician, filmmaker and activist in Edmonton. My experience as a human rights youth educator, workshop facilitator and

advocate in the community make me an excellent candidate for APIRG board member.

### The Alberta Public Interest Research

**Group** is a resource based at the U of A for student- and community-based research, education, advocacy and action in the public interest. Vote March 9 and 10, 2010, at all Students' Union polling stations or online.

## COUNCIL ELECTIONS MARCH 24&25

## RUN FOR A COUNCIL SEAT

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 14TH

NOMINATION PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN SUB 2-900

### STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Students' Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Union. It consists of 38 voting members, including the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors Representative, and 32 faculty-specific representatives. Students' Council deals with matters affecting the Students' Union and undergraduate student body, such as the Health and Dental Plan, SUB renovations, and Beartracks upgrades.

**Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
2 GFC Seats

**Arts**  
6 Students' Council Seats  
8 GFC Seats

**Augustana**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Business**  
2 Students' Council Seats  
3 GFC Seats

**Education**  
3 Students' Council Seats  
4 GFC Seats

**Engineering**  
4 Students' Council Seats  
5 GFC Seats

**Law**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Medicine & Dentistry**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
2 GFC Seats

### GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

General Faculties Council (GFC) is the legislative body of the University of Alberta that deals with all academic matters and student affairs issues. It is comprised of 152 members—40 of whom are students—and has overseen the development of the University's Academic Plan, the use of technology on campus, on the approval of the U of A budget process principles.

**Native Studies**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Nursing**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
2 GFC Seats

**Open Studies**  
1 Students' Council Seat

**Physical Education & Recreation**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Pharmacy**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Faculté St. Jean**  
1 Students' Council Seat  
1 GFC Seat

**Science**  
7 Students' Council Seats  
8 GFC Seats





# Alberta Party tries to save democracy



RYAN  
BROMSGROVE

Our current political system is not working. The provincial Progressive Conservative Party has an inflated sense of entitlement, special interest groups and industry lobbyists capture a disproportionate amount of our politicians' attentions, and people who aren't already apathetic find few avenues for meaningful involvement. In response, the Alberta Party formed last year, with the intent to actually explore what a democracy in the 21st century should look like, rather than vie for power in an outdated system.

It's easy to dismiss the Alberta Party as yet another hopeless contender. But if people start paying attention, the party represents potential for the genuine change that the province, and politics in general, needs. At the very least, they're addressing concerns that no other party bothers with.

"I think people want to be part of a community," Sue Huff, acting leader of the Alberta Party, told me when I spoke with her. "They want to contribute, they want to give back. I don't think that political structures to date have been very good at that."

The Alberta Party has been running around the province for a year or so now, promising that they're going to do things differently. A lot of political parties promise change,

but the Alberta Party appears to actually take the idea seriously. They know that nobody really likes the current government, but they also know that they have to confront the sense of inevitability, along with the enormous voter apathy, that comes with having a ruling party that holds power for decades.

"I think there's a lot of people who feel that their vote doesn't count," Huff said. "[There are] a lot of people who feel that no matter what they do, they can't affect any change."

The Alberta Party's major initiative has been the Big Listen. They gather small groups of 10 to 12 people in a room, and get them talking in a non-confrontational setting. They ask the group about the pressures they're facing, their hopes for the future, and why they're grateful for living in Alberta. What they've found is that despite apparent differences along the urban-rural divide, and despite pre-existing political affiliation, people largely want the same things.

"From there, you can build policy that actually reflects the values and aspirations of Albertans," Huff explained, "rather than guessing."

That sounds promising, but many point out that there could be dire consequences to bending to the will of the people. It could turn out that the majority of Albertans don't care about the reality of climate change or some other scientifically settled issue. Similarly, wi-fi has been criticized for giving children headaches despite a lack of hard evidence, and preservatives containing small amounts of mercury have been removed from vaccines in response to public pressure, despite research

showing it isn't as deadly as assumed. If the Alberta Party decides its policy based on public opinion, the people could decide that they want to ignore evidence and keep buying Hummers. The alarming question is essentially, "what if everyone is actually stupid?"

Huff initially had similar concerns about Albertans' responses to the Big Listen, but said that when you get people talking, rather than shouting at each other due to pre-existing party or ideological affiliations, they aren't as likely to hold extreme views. When given a real chance to speak, and not two minutes at a town-hall meeting, they don't feel like they have to shout to be heard.

Even so, one only needs to look through history to see that there were certainly times when the majority was wrong. In this case, Huff said, if she really felt like she was right and they were wrong, it would be up to her to educate and better inform the people on the issue. This is probably as good as any political party in a democracy can do.

The Alberta Party has some bold ideas, one of which is that the people of the province should be involved in the political process and come up with some ideas of their own. It also seems legitimately committed to fulfilling its goals, while remaining very aware of the difficulties it faces. Whether or not it ends up winning seats, the party will undoubtedly be an important part of the next provincial election. Whatever happens, this new approach is a good thing, not only for Alberta, but for anyone who cares about ever fixing this mess we call democracy.

## THREELINESFREE

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at [threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca), tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree)

Whats an SC  
I agree w/tn a tne o'it'ning and comp a'ining about wa'king on the wrong s'ide out honest y wno designed the s'ide doors to CCIS? why 's the on y nand e to get 'n on tne eft door?  
My on y goa after first year 's to nave my message 'n three 'lines free. Acn'iev'ng tn's wou d be great y appreciated.  
My favourite event on campus my da'y poo. So many o'cations to cnoose from t-free to et paper. It's tne perfect break from a busy schedu e. Eating on campus 's pr'cy. Sn't'ng 's free and t'wice as en'oyab e.  
Guy on the LRT You et me take the free spot on the tra'n. Thank you for sno'wing us tnat cn'va ry 's not dead. Next t'me, do 't for tne o'd ady 'n front of you w/tn a cane!  
Hey ETS, if you can drop 3 peop e off tne bus you can ft 3 more on. Thanks for the forsto'te.  
Dear Guy In H.L.B.s Vars'ty, test'ng out the n'itty mecnan'ca p'enc's you can snake. Not on y do you 'ke scnoo sup'ies, you sme ed magn'ficent as we traded spots. Tn's 's an 'nd'cat'ion tnat we need to make genet'ca y super'ior pap'ies.  
The cand'dates snou d nave a qr codes on tne'r posters... I wou d tota y scan tnat! Espec'ia y wn'e wa'ing tne tne o'nox'ous ong t'mmys 'ne up!  
Dear bus driver, You cou d ft at east 5 peop e 'n front of tne "ye ow 'ine" wnen 't's -35. Why do we pay for tne UPass? .erk.  
Wn'cnever cand'date can get more T'm Hortons on campus nas my vote!  
I m'ght need some of wnatver Cnar'ie Snee'n 's on to ne p me surv'ive tne rest of tne semester.  
Id 'ke to borrow your poops. Can I grab tne m next t'me I m over?  
I meet you at co'woys. Find your own r'ide.  
Douches at the LRT station! Why you gotta take tne e'vator w/tn tne d'sap ed/e der y! Haven't you seen those signs saying tnat sta'rs are nea tny?!?!  
D'm'n's'ng marg'na ut'ity doesn't app y, wnen 't comes to Rory T'gne.  
Dear Fe ow Seep-Depr'ived L'ster'te, THANK YOU, I agree. Snut 't and et me s'ee p.  
Serious y, Streeters? "Hunks"? "Hot babes"? 1) You sound 'ke d'ots. 2) Wnat about pandas? Koa as? Those wou d be f\*\*\*'ng adorab e 'nfestations.  
To tne aud't'ng student 'n tne front row w/tn the gasses 'n Cnem 511 wno keeps ask'ng too many out of scope quest'ons. SH.U.P AND STOP SHOWING OFF! You are the reason we nad to sc'p 'mportant course mater'als!  
To tne guy 'n AN, SC Monday aops (tne one wno was p'ay'ng w/tn tne tappy cat at tne Da'ry un't'e you were nogg'ng 't), you nave a cute sm'e. And you seem to 'ke cats. Bonus.  
R'ght handers, why do you 'ns'ist on tak'ng our seats?  
It's r'd'cu'ous tnat Cram Dunk, L'Express and Sup'way eave tneir neon 'gnts on at n'ght. No wonder a my money d'sappears 'n S.C.B.  
8am 's way too eary to see tnat much outcrack...  
The Gateway reserves the right to edit any submissions, as well as refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist, hateful, libellous, or overtly offensive. The Gateway cannot guarantee that your submission will be used (but we'll try). Submissions should be 130 characters max (including spaces).

## REGISTRATION FALL 2011 & WINTER 2012

Create your conflict-free draft schedule now

START NOW

<https://www.beartracks.ualberta.ca>

Many classes fill quickly so be ready to enroll early

Save time on your enrollment date



Go To Bear Tracks Announcements

Click on Fall 2011/Winter 2012 Registration Information



# Campaign promises that fall flat



OPINION  
STAFF

Group  
Commentary

Politicians love making promises, and SU candidates are no different. At *The Gateway*, we take our campaign promises with a grain of salt. Here are some of the worst ones we've seen offered this year.

## Ryan Bromsgrove

Raph's big ideas are summed up by the three most overused words in politics: transparency, awareness, and communication. He'll accomplish these goals, he says, by creating a Twitter account and doing video blogs.

Don't ask what those promises have to do with being the Board of Governors Representative, because I don't think he knows either. I suppose that once he spends the two minutes it takes to create @boardofgovrepua, all he'll do for the rest of the year is tweet links to his YouTube uploads. Perhaps the first video would be a shaky record of his inaugural meeting with the Board of Governors, where we'd all get to see how nervous he is.

But we know there's only one way this will end. We'll barely be at Christmas before all Raph's uploading are videos of his cats doing things that we wouldn't normally expect cats to be doing. That would be adorable, it really would, but it's not too clear why he's so intent on telling students about the BoG when he should be representing them to the governors.

Unless Raph starts making video blogs of the students for the governors to show them all what an awesome — or terrible — time we're having on campus, this promise is meaningless. But that might actually be a good idea, because that would actually bring more of a student voice to the board — which is, you know, actually part of what what the BoG representative is supposed to do.

## Andrew Douglas

A line of engineers in Rockette uniforms doing high kicks! Nurses dance-fighting in the intro to *West Side Story*! Women's Studies majors belting out the notes to "Singin' in the Rain!" This is just a glimpse of the future where Colten Yamagishi is now the VP (Student Life) and the campus musical has been implemented. Yamagishi has proposed this idea as part of his campaign, under his "diversify events" platform point.

Granted, everyone loves musicals, but Yamagishi's idea disregards one portion of the U of A population that has proven talent in the area already — the fine arts department. Every department at the university has a special area that they have experts in, so why not leave the performing to those who do it best, especially since the drama department already puts on all sorts of spectacles? Maybe he's been watching too much *Glee* and figures that someone who has had enough of high textbook prices will suddenly break into Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It" in the middle of the bookstore. Of course, such an outburst would immediately be followed by the rest of the student body joining in.

Besides, if the whole campus put on a musical, what musical would we choose? *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls* both encourage people to gamble and con. *South Pacific* romanticizes the Second World War. And don't even get me started on *Bye Bye Birdie* — does anyone actually have the courage to wear a gold lamé jumpsuit in front of the whole student body? Personally, I think that Colten just really wants to recreate Liza Minnelli's chair scene from *Cabaret*. If any of the candidates can pull off those fishnets, it's Colten Yamagishi.

## Brad Chury

Rory Tighe, you're making me "tighe-red" of the usual lofty promises. Every year, we hear the same reiteration from an SU Prez hopeful: better student spaces. I've been here for five years and I have seen many a candidate promise this change, but every single time I have been sorely misguided.

I admire your desire to renovate the lower level of SUB. There's a clusterfuck of rooms downstairs that, Lord knows, should see some change. But do you think removing the shoddy, '80s-era furniture will actually get people to go down the stairs and wander through the various student offices and services? Not unless you put in a bowling alley, bar, and escort service.

And reinventing the Powerplant is *always* a great idea. Multiple SU administrations have tried to rework the Powerplant, and it *always* falls short. I've heard that the 'Plant used to be a pretty sweet place, but when they finally shut it down, it was a shell of its former glory.

I'll admit, I don't mind Dewey's. The food is about as good as anything you can get on campus and there is usually a plethora of booze. But having a good portion of it sold off for offices was very disheartening. Nobody has made it work. Maybe just try to get better food, sweet booze deals, and something totally rad. Like that crazy hookah bar idea from a few years ago. On the other hand, wall-to-wall strippers and cocaine always makes money.

## Alix Kemp

Vice President (External) candidate Farid Iskandar wants to limit tuition increases to CPI. There's just one little problem with this brilliant idea: regulations in Alberta have capped tuition increases at CPI since 2006. While the introduction of mandatory non-instructional fees like the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security fee has circumvented that cap, the fact remains that Iskandar is arguing for something we already have.

Still, you have to give him points for a clever tactic. By promising something that's already a reality in the province, Iskandar can pretend to make realistic, actionable campaign promises that he'll never actually have to act on. It certainly seems like a better idea than trying to connect with students and politicians through Twitter, convincing students to vote in provincial elections, and "regulating" mandatory non-instructional fees.

What's most alarming about Iskandar's campaign is his obliviousness to tuition regulations already in place in the province. The man who is supposed to lobby for students on a provincial level is apparently clueless about the provincial regulations that affect us.

## Darcy Ropchan

If the Week of Welcome festivities weren't enough to get all you antisocial people out there and meeting new people, Vice President (Student Life) candidate David McBean wants to create a homecoming event so we can feel even more welcomed back.

For those of you who don't know, a homecoming is an event that is put on by a lot of high schools and some universities as a way to welcome back students and alumni to another school year, and usually celebrate a football game. It's just too bad the U of A doesn't have any time and activities devoted to welcoming back new and returning students. Maybe it could go for an entire week and have some catchy title like "Week of Welcome." It's really too bad the U of A doesn't already have something like this.

A homecoming event is an incredibly stupid idea and a waste of money. The biggest reason: the homecoming dance. When I enrolled at the U of A, I thought all my awkward high-school days would be over. If there's a homecoming dance, it forces me and other social misfits to re-live our terrifying adolescent days. A lot of you are probably saying, "But a homecoming dance could be fun." Yeah, and maybe the jocks won't chase me down and give me a swirly.

## THE BURLAP SACK

Anyone who has trudged through certain wings of Tory lately has probably noticed the signs saying: "Please be aware there are mice in the building. Do not leave food in your locker."

Seemingly mocking us, these small, boring signs have been randomly strewn in the corners of Tory for months now, and yet somehow we were all shocked when word got out that the university had a sudden massive infestation of

mice. How could we be so surprised when we had such impressive, clearly effective signs to warn us, you might ask? Because we go to a university that likes to post completely ineffectual signs in dark corners so that when we have a colony of mice living in the rafters, they can say "we told you so" instead of fixing the problem when it first presented itself.

If the university had taken action when the problem first came up instead of posting some stupid signs that clearly nobody listens to, we might not be in this situation in the first place.

That's the problem with turning a blind eye to minor issues; sooner or later, that minor issue turns into a major one.

Here's a thought: instead of plastering signs that students won't pay any attention to, they might have called an exterminator a little earlier. Now that they're finally dealing with the problem, I'll be resisting the temptation to rip down those signs and condemning them to a burlap sack.

ALANA WILLERTON

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature in which a person or group that needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered, although we might make an exception if we find any mice in our office.*

Watch for *The Gateway's* special spring fashion pullout section in this Thursday's issue.

retrofuturism





# An evening of laughs with the eccentric Uncle Val

## theatre review

### An Evening With Uncle Val

Directed by Lois Brown  
Written by Andy Jones and Michael Jones Sr.

Starring Andy Jones  
TransAlta Arts Barns  
(10330 – 84 Avenue)  
Runs until March 13 at 8 p.m.,  
2 p.m. matinée on March 13  
\$21–25.20 at TransAlta Arts Barns  
box office

RYAN BROMSGROVE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

On a set featuring little more than a desk, a kitchen table, and two large piles of boxes, Andy Jones reveals how St. John's can make a retired fisherman in his 70s completely lose his mind.

The character of Uncle Val was created in the late 1970s, Jones explains as himself between sketches. He's an old man living with his

daughter, Margaret, her husband Bernard, and two kids named Jimmy and Kimmy — “rhyming youngsters” as he disapprovingly describes them — trying to deal with the absurdity of daily life in the suburbs of Newfoundland's capital.

The one-man show revolves around Val's diatribes, which take the form of letters to his friend Jack, punctuated by Jones as himself giving some historical and cultural context. In the introductory letter, the character's crotchety but playfully mean-spirited personality is firmly established as he relates the tale of how he told his grandchildren that Spiderman is dead. They, too, would be dead one day, Val tells them, merely little white bodies in little white coffins — proving that the best service that the elderly can perform for society is scaring the shit out of its kids.

While much of his material is spoken, physical humour is used just as effectively. A cord dangling mysteriously from the ceiling for 20 minutes

**It feels like a highlight reel of the character that speeds up uncontrollably toward the end, whereas the earlier sketches took their time and unfolded naturally.**

eventually unleashes a puff of fake snow as Val walks to a mailbox during the first outdoor scene. He walks oddly in place for a few seconds before the mailbox slides into view. Later, in a scene where he appears to be dying, he jerks up mid-death-throe and sheepishly repositions himself within the square spotlight.

The first act features bitterness throughout, but it isn't long before the madness creeps in. His son-in-law “King” Bernard is asleep, drunk, and

the kids are sick in bed. With Margaret at a PTA meeting, Val is left alone with the poodles — played by a pair of poodle slippers — so he starts scheming about usurping power of the suburban house, going so far as to crown himself.

But his plot is foiled, and he launches into a new tale of how he told the children that they were brought up by wolves. He then dons a pelt-like cloak and dances around the stage, finishing up a brilliantly amusing and absurd first act.

Jones switches gears for the second act, with Uncle Val's delirious ramblings taking the form of conversations with dead people, with everyone from his parents to JFK. While still entertaining, the comedic momentum that had been building during the first act dissipates. Those not familiar with the traditions of Newfoundland comedy and performance, or those looking for more of the first act, will likely be lost when Jones begins to break character to speak more about the idiosyncratic Newfoundland

culture and how it relates to Uncle Val.

The last few sketches seem disconnected and almost random as Jones rushes to squeeze three decades of performance into two hours. It also becomes increasingly difficult to keep track of when Andy Jones is in character and when he is simply explaining the play's history and context. The sudden arrivals and departures of JFK's ghost do not exactly help keep things straight either. It feels like a highlight reel of the character that speeds up uncontrollably toward the end, whereas the earlier sketches took their time and unfolded naturally.

*An Evening with Uncle Val* is an enjoyable introduction to Jones' off-beat character. With convincing acting, a vast array of smart jokes, and a playful use of set, props, and lighting, the play begins as an incredibly enjoyable theatrical experience. But while the first act is consistently funny, the change of direction during the second half of the show makes for a performance that falls short of excellence.



# A bureaucracy of divine intervention

## film review

### The Adjustment Bureau

Directed by George Nolfi  
Starring Matt Damon, Emily Blunt,  
and Anthony Mackie  
Now Playing

KORY ORBAN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

News flash: Angels exist, and they're bureaucrats. But far from performing miracles or bestowing salvation upon the world, the angels of *The Adjustment Bureau*, are responsible for the administration of fate for the government of God.

The plot revolves around the unmanageable destiny of David Norris (Matt Damon), a successful New York politician and universally likeable guy. He makes us laugh during his rather uncouth speeches about the shallow nature of politics, he provides us with smiles of satisfaction when he gets physical with those who stand in his way, and he makes us cry when he regales us with stories of the loss of his

parents. Elise Sellas (Emily Blunt), as Norris' love interest, is equally captivating. We don't learn as much about the character's past, but her snarky sense of humour, prominence as a ballet dancer, and free spirit are enough to win anybody over. As a couple, the pair successfully creates a relationship endearing enough to be worthy of genuine emotional investment.

Unfortunately, staying together isn't part of the master plan — the cockblocking angels from the Adjustment Bureau are determined to keep them apart. God has decreed their relationship unacceptable, and the whole force of the adjustment bureau is now bearing down on them in an effort to end their happiness, leaving David to fight against the unrelenting tide of fate while he chases the object of his affection.

Love stories are often cheesy, but this one manages to avoid an overabundance typical tear-filled eyes, steamy love scenes, and looks of endearment that characterize most of Hollywood's on-screen romances. While *The Adjustment Bureau* does not forgo these devices completely, they're mercifully mitigated by sprinkles of witty banter

and suspenseful moments, with further interest provided by the world of tools the Adjustment Bureau uses to keep the hopeless lovers apart.

With stylish fedoras that enshrine them with the power to unlock the labyrinth of mind-boggling connections that exists behind ordinary doorways, and notebooks that can identify any person's current location and destiny in real time, the characters of *The Adjustment Bureau* live in a world that is immersive and captivating. Although films that try to entrench the audience in an entirely separate fantasy universe sometimes get too far-fetched, this movie always manages to maintain a specific plausibility about the spectacular world it depicts.

The film avoids ensnaring itself in its tangled web of plot points, and yet again, somehow removes the cheese from the romantic elements through its underlying sense of believability despite the fantasy world in which the story takes place. Although it's George Nolfi's first feature film, *The Adjustment Bureau* is both a thrilling drama and fantastic love story. Who knew a movie about bureaucrats could actually be enjoyable?



## U OF A STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

2011  
PLEBISCITE  
QUESTIONVOTE  
ON MARCH  
9&10

Do you support the Students' Union pursuing the establishment of a Fall Reading Week, subject to the following principles:

- classes would begin on the Wednesday before Labour Day (the first Monday of September);
- the Fall Reading Week would occur the same week as Remembrance Day (November 11th);
- the number of instructional days in the Fall Semester would remain at sixty-three (63); and
- the Fall Reading Week would not apply to certain faculties and programs as per the current Winter Reading Week?

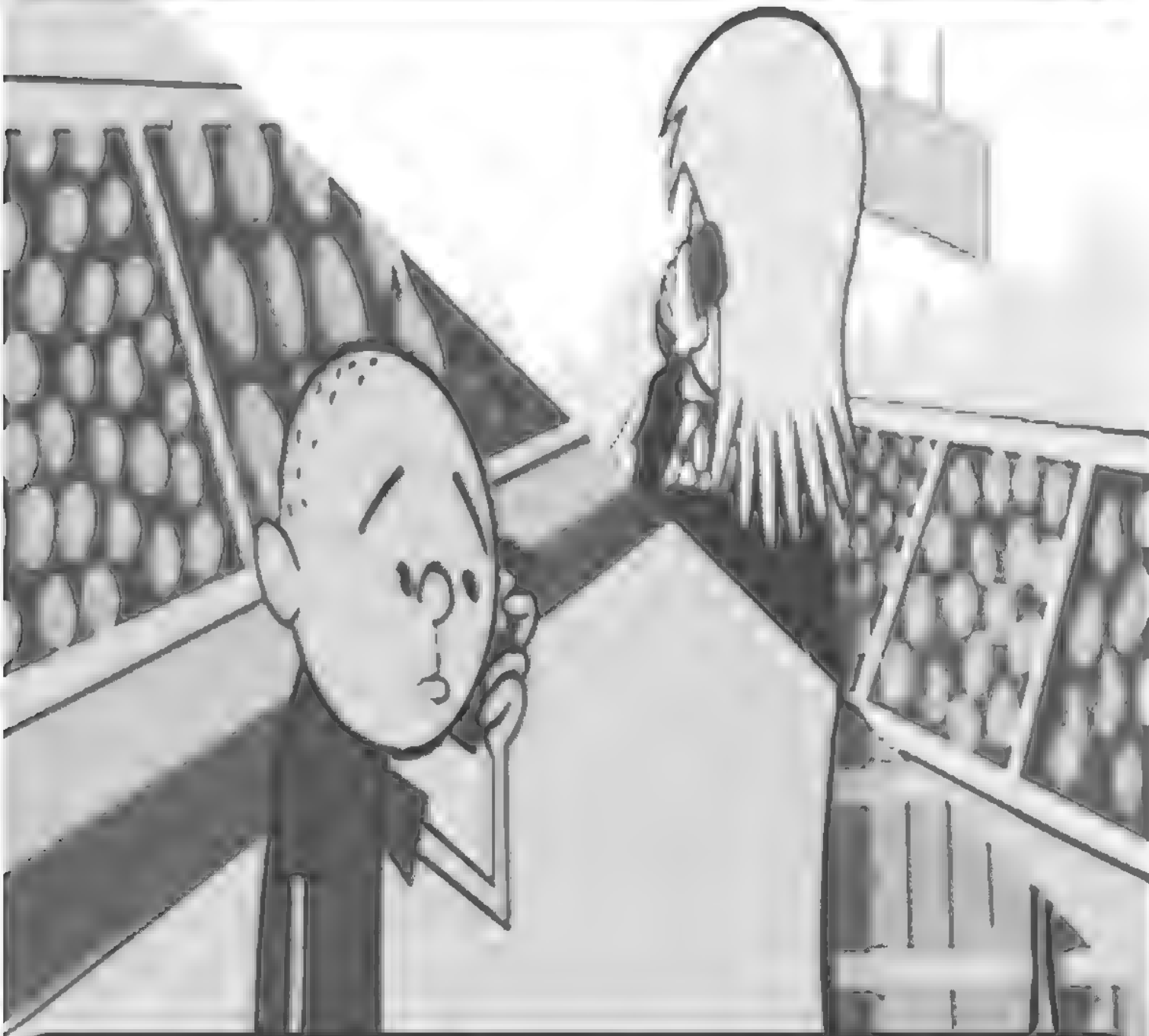
## FOR MORE INFORMATION

about the elections process please contact Jaskaran Singh, Chief Returning Officer at [cro@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:cro@su.ualberta.ca) or visit [www.su.ualberta.ca/vote](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/vote)



[WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/VOTE](http://WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/VOTE)

"Suzanne called me to say she had gone for a haircut and she'd meet me in the supermarket. I went to the supermarket, but she wasn't there. I called her and she said she was near the fruit aisle. I went to the fruit aisle, but she wasn't there. Turns out she was in a different supermarket on the other side of town and if I had listened to her properly, I would've known that."

GATEWAY  
COMICS/ILLUSTRATIONS

Drawing comedy from real-life stupidity (I hope...) since 1910

Comics/Illustrations meetings are Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. on the third floor of SUB.

## Hollywood's cornucopia of crazy

The Gateway takes bets on who might inherit Charlie Sheen's reign of insanity

A&E  
STAFFGroup  
Commentary

When celebrities go off the deep end, their shenanigans are just too entertaining to ignore. As a salute to the recent bizarre behaviour of Charlie Sheen, *The Gateway* has some other ideas about what a few more stars might look like when they inevitably lose their minds.

## Alex Migdal

James Franco is an actor, director, author, teacher, painter, screenwriter, Oscar host, and doctoral student. In other words, the perfect combination for a celebrity breakdown of nuclear proportions.

How exactly does he do it? Well, the Oscar telecast was quite telling of Franco's condition these days. He seemed dazed, passive, and borderline high.

Yes, Franco's superhuman strength may all just boil down to some good old Mary Jane. The stress of all his work would be enough to send any normal student into a nervous breakdown, so a joint once in a while wouldn't be surprising. Plus, his performance as a stoner in *Pineapple Express* was Oscar-worthy in its authenticity.

But the mountainous workload Franco's taken on is teetering dangerously off-balance, and one doobie too many could send it tumbling down. A Franco meltdown would be classic. It's like a Freudian psychoanalytic theory brought to life; his unconscious need for achievement and recognition are fuelling him into extreme perfectionist tendencies, only to be cut short by the satisfying escape provided by hallucinogens.

The first signs have already started to show, and it won't be too long before Franco reaches the pinnacle of his celebrity breakdown: cutting off his own arm.

## Carole Yue

America's favorite son Ashton Kutcher enjoys a six-million-strong following on Twitter. For someone who isn't maintaining a commanding presence on the cinematic scene, and who possesses all the charm of a teaspoon, it's a wonder people still care about this particular talentless hack. With his

inexplicable ability to make more than six million individuals give a shit about his life, Kutcher is the ideal successor to Charlie Sheen, the current media king.

Between his troubled childhood, his somewhat Oedipal union with Demi Moore, and his conversion to Kabbalah, his breakdown is ready for any number of titillating permutations. Will he boink Rumer? Scout? Both of them? While watching *Ghost*? Will he try to re-enact *Dude, Where's My Car?* only to end up insisting that the aliens were real? And isn't anyone curious to see some poetic justice meted out for a guy who produced a show about finding entertainment in merciless, humiliating pranks?

Unlike any of his previous acting endeavours, I'm sure that having an "epic" breakdown is one thing Ashton Kutcher could handle with A-list class.

## Dustin Blumhagen

When Taylor Swift released her first hit single in 2006, she was only 16 years old. Since then, she has continuously dominated the charts with her pop-country love songs. The former teen star frequently airs her dirty laundry through her lyrics, which sound like a page straight out of her diary.

But no matter how many boys break her heart, Swift has always maintained a sense of innocence and purity that is unmatched in the pop world. When the king of annoying himself, Kanye West, stormed the stage during her acceptance speech at the 2010 MTV VMAs, the entire world was horrified that he would dare insult such a sweet young girl. But her unfailing goodness seems to suggest a Stepford-Wives-like level of deceit.

In the midst of the dark times our world is currently facing, it is impossible to believe that someone could remain so innocent much longer. The day will come when some boy will break her heart for the last time. After responding to a 911 call from worried neighbours, police will find Taylor sitting calmly on the sofa composing her latest hit "Drops of Blood on My Guitar."

In the bedroom, they will find her poor victim handcuffed to the bed with the words "You Belong with ME" carved into his chest with a razor blade.

Naturally, he'll still be wearing his boxers — we all know she's still planning to save herself for marriage.

## Gavin Bradley

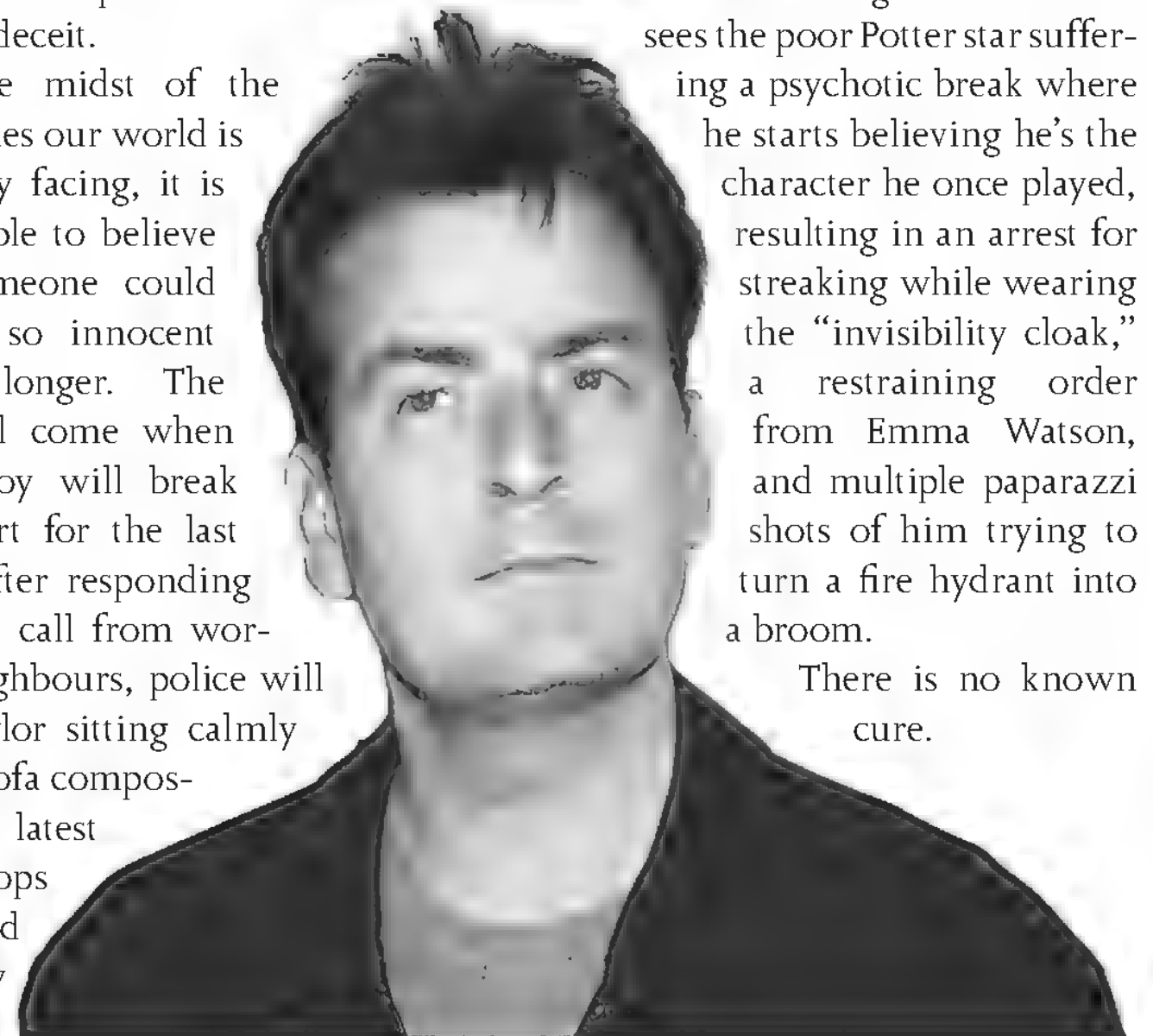
Some breakdowns are inevitable. Whether it's Christian Bale smashing some poor guy's Christmas lights, Lindsay Lohan's ongoing attempt to fill her entire body with alcohol, or Britney Spears' next step in her ongoing war against head lice and wearing underwear, some celebs have proven they're just born to break down.

Next on the list is clearly *Harry Potter* star Daniel Radcliffe, who, despite his best efforts to wash the scar off and hide the robe, surely only needs to be accosted by one more book-wielding 10-year-old fan before he slips into a madness known as Gary Coleman Syndrome. This serious condition — typically observed in former child actors — afflicts those who can never quite manage to escape the shadow of one specific role. The symptoms are unmistakable, and for Radcliffe, possibly inescapable. First comes the drastic "new look," which in Radcliffe's case will surely involve gaining 200 pounds, growing his hair to his shoulders, and embracing the open-toed sandal.

Next comes the interview freakout, in which he casts off his glasses in a fit of insanity, before realizing that he actually needs them to see. This leaves him no choice but to complete the interview sobbing and squinting at a bemused presenter as if he just murdered his pet owl.

The sad final stage of this illness sees the poor Potter star suffering a psychotic break where he starts believing he's the character he once played, resulting in an arrest for streaking while wearing the "invisibility cloak," a restraining order from Emma Watson, and multiple paparazzi shots of him trying to turn a fire hydrant into a broom.

There is no known cure.

site  
unseen

Fat, Ugly, or Slutty  
[www.fatuglyorslutty.com](http://www.fatuglyorslutty.com)

MATT MEUSE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

As a young male, I have a grand old time in the arena of online gaming — it's an entire medium of entertainment targeted specifically at me and my demographic. However, the usual veil of anonymity the internet provides is slowly being lifted, and it turns out that girls are playing online video games too.

Who knew, right? But based

on some of the reactions I've witnessed to a female's presence in an online game, if I had a vagina, I'd probably be keen to hide it as well. Maybe it's the hyper-masculine environment of the average online shooter, the lamentable social skills of the gaming demographic, or just the novelty factor. But for whatever reason, the discovery of a girl in an online game like *Call of Duty* is sure to open the floodgates for a torrent of catcalls, slurs, and general verbal abuse that makes me question if any of these people have ever actually met a girl in real life. Apparently, being a female is reason enough to have a slew of hateful, misogynistic, and lewd comments directed at you through private channels in

addition to the public thrashing you also might receive.

Fat, Ugly or Slutty — a name derived from the assumed qualities that any girl gamer ostensibly must have — is a website for displaying these comments as objects of ridicule rather than something to be upset about. Receive an oh-so-original suggestion to go back to the kitchen from that dude you clowned at *Halo*? Get hit on in a spectacularly creepy manner just for having an internet connection and two X chromosomes? Post a screenshot or an audio file at "Fat, Ugly, or Slutty" and show the world, so we can all laugh at what ignorant manchildren most gamers apparently are.





albumreview

**Mark Berube and the Patriotic Few**  
*June In Siberia*  
Aquarius Records

DULGUUN BAYASGALAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

At first glance, Mark Berube & the Patriotic Few's latest effort *June In Siberia* looks like an invitation into a meadow of mellow melodies with vocals echoing the well-spoken whippers of Iron & Wine. But slip the CD in and by the time track two opens with a darkly mischievous piano intro, you find yourself engrossed in a harmony of theatrical tunes fit to soundtrack a Tim Burton film. The fusion of

dramatic cello lines, anxious piano riffs, and choppy drum beats creates a certain tension that might dominate a Dickensian scene of a back-alley brawl. The suspense builds and culminates towards the middle of the album on the songs "Let Me Go" and "My Me Lady," where lines such as "I get off the bus and I start to cuss with my teeth full of dust" are narrated against a melodic backdrop charged with an

urgent excitement. Naturally, this is counterbalanced with more mellow tunes like the playful "Hurricane/Little Quiet Scream" and the sweet "Above the Ground." This range of melodies is carried by frontman Mark Berube, with the occasional help of friends like Dan Mangan and Emily Loizeau. Berube's vocals at times carry a husky, sandpapery quality, while on other instances are much smoother and more fluid. Unfortunately, although *June In Siberia* seems catchy at first, promising to keep you company on walks through the snow or train rides across the city, its songs are easily exhausted before too long. This album begins as an entertaining journey, but shortly retires to the shelf of things never to be revisited, and most likely forgotten.



albumreview

**Deon Blyan**  
*Turning to Wave*  
Independent

JAMIE CHAPELSKY  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Canadian folk-pop scene has found itself a new poster boy. Initially, Deon Blyan's newest album *Turning to Wave* appears to be yet another collection of brooding singer-songwriter accounts of love lost ("Empty Heart") and moving on ("My Lesson's Learned," "Dive Right In"). And yet, he somehow manages to craft easygoing melancholic tunes that are astonishingly uplifting and hooks that continue bouncing around

in your head long after the album has ended. Blyan's second album reunites him with Edmonton's James Murdoch, who produced and co-wrote several songs, and enlists the aid of other local talent such as the haunting vocals of F&M's Becky Anderson on the track "Earthquake." It seems that every writer is told at some point to write about what you know, so when you live in the wondrous expanse

of flat land that is Alberta, it's no surprise that you'd want to write about *anywhere* but here. Over the course of the album, Blyan takes us on a journey to the bustling cosmopolitan streets of Brooklyn, on the search for "what the fuss is about" in "Across 23rd Street," and we're even transported to a fanciful town where two worlds collide in "Winnipeg Italy." Anything that allows you to forget the frigid Canadian winter, even for a moment, is one hell of a gift. *Turning to Wave's* catchy pop ballads highlight Blyan's commanding and emotional storytelling abilities. Offset with a folk-country twang reminiscent of Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy or Luke Doucet, Blyan's ability to capture a picture of the daily Canadian experience evokes an unequivocal feeling of familiarity.



albumreview

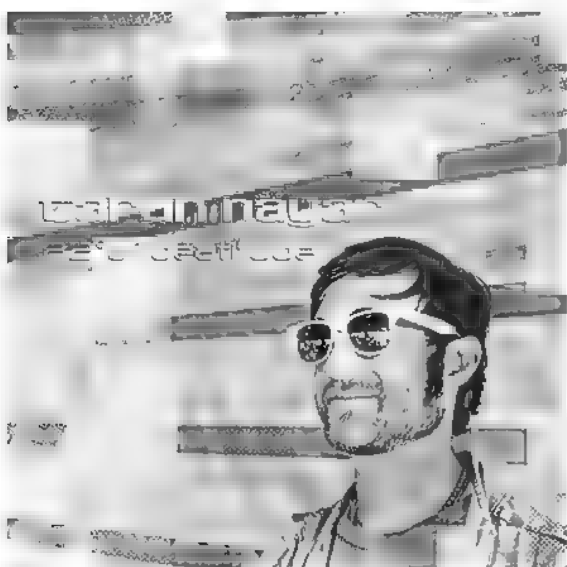
**Amos Lee**  
*Mission Bell*  
Bluenote Records

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Despite being backed by alt-country band Calexico and singing a duet with Lucinda Williams, listeners expecting to hear a lot of twang on Amos Lee's latest release will be surprised. Instead, Lee complements his laid-back music on *Mission Bell* with smooth, soulful vocals, and

songs based on a catchy acoustic guitar melody achieve a new sense of depth with the addition of mandolin, organ, trumpet, and a plethora of other instruments. While Lee's name is relatively unknown in the mainstream, he has gained the respect of many fellow

musicians over the past few years. On *Mission Bell*, he's joined by Sam Beam of Iron & Wine on the slow, sweet "Violin" and Willie Nelson on the standout track "El Camino." On the uplifting "Flower," Lee channels The Commodores' "Easy (Like Sunday Morning)," taking the best elements of the classic song and making it work well in the present. He takes a bluesy approach to gospel on the catchy "Jesus," encouraging passionate hand-clapping and foot-stomping. Amos Lee plays music that will never make it on commercial radio, but the combination of his passion and songwriting skill make *Mission Bell* an extraordinary addition to his catalogue.



albumreview

**Tarun Nayar**  
*22° of Beatitude*  
Chaiwalla's Boombox

JON GRIER  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

*22° of Beatitude* presents itself as a tribute to musician Tarun Nayar's long experience of making music around the world. The debut solo effort from the Delhi 2 Dublin member is all about a fusion of sounds: cross-cultural style thrown into a mesh of electronica. An expansive variety of world sounds like sitars, tabla

drums, and zithers also get put to work over beats both contemplative and quickening. You can't really call *22° of Beatitude* a dance album, even with its faster moving pieces. "Call to Prayer," for example, stands out with its strange mix, combining some of the sounds of Islamic prayer with the pulsing bass of house music.

Though that's as odd a combination as you'll find on this album, it doesn't fall flat. "Turkish Spice," another later track, continues in the same vein, fusing a techno vibe with the videogame-inspired sound effects of chiptune. Another standout blend emerges on the second track "Kezang La," which again adds modern drumbeats to traditional singing to create a kind of Indian hip-hop. You can feel the cross-cultural passion in how the eclectic mix of instruments from different parts of the world create sounds you've never heard before. It's something most world music tries to capture, but Nayar makes it work prodigiously. A boundary-crossing album like this doesn't come by often enough, and should be heard by as many people willing to listen.



19 Jan 2038 at 3:14:07 AM:  
THE END OF THE WORLD, ACCORDING TO UNIX  
**TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES**  
every wednesday at thegatewayonline.ca

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**WATERLOO ENGINEERING**

“RIGHT NOW THE ONLY THING THAT I AM CONCERNED WITH IN MY LIFE IS BEING AN ARTIST. I HAD TO SUPPRESS IT FOR SO MANY YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL BECAUSE I WAS MADE FUN OF BUT NOW I'M COMPLETELY INSULATED IN MY BOX OF INSANITY AND I CAN DO WHATEVER I LIKE.”  
— LADY GAGA

**GATEWAY A&E**  
Not a drag, just a queen since 1910  
A&E meetings Tuesdays at 5 p.m. on the third floor of SUB.



## BEARS HOCKEY

FRIDAY, MARCH 4



4



0

### Score by Period

Alberta	2	1	1	<b>4</b>
Manitoba	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

**AB Goals:** Greg Gardner, Jesse Craig, Derek Ryan, J.P. Szaszkiewicz

**AB Assists:** Jarrett Toews (2), Derek Ryan (2), Chad Klassen (2), Zach Daley, Ian Barteaux

### Goalie Stats

	GA	SH	SV
<b>AB</b> - Kurt's Mucna	0	23	23
<b>MAN</b> - Steve Christie	3	23	20

### Game Stats

	AB	MAN
Sots	24	23
Power play	1/5	0/5

### Three Stars

- 1. AB** - Chad Klassen (2 assists)
- 2. AB** - Greg Gardner (1 goal)
- 3. AB** - Kurt's Mucna (23 saves)

SATURDAY, MARCH 5



2



1

### Score by Period

Alberta	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
Manitoba	0	1	0	<b>1</b>

**AB Goals:** Matt Meropoulos, Colin Joe

**MAN Goals:** DeCowan

**AB Assists:** Derek Ryan, Sean Ringrose, Colin Joe, J.P. Szaszkiewicz

**MAN Assists:** Dane Crowley, Nolan Waker

### Goalie Stats

	GA	SH	SV
<b>AB</b> - Kurt's Mucna	1	27	26
<b>MAN</b> - Steve Christie	2	34	32

### Game Stats

	AB	MAN
Sots	34	27
Power play	0/5	0/4

### Three Stars

- 1. AB** - Colin Joe (1 goal, 1 assist)
- 2. AB** - Kurt's Mucna (26 saves)
- 3. MAN** - Steve Christie (32 saves)



MATT HIRJI

# Puck Bears slay mighty Bison

## hockey roundup

### Bears vs. Manitoba Bisons

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

The Puck Bears stamped their ticket to their 15th straight CanWest championship this weekend, rallying around their concussed captain to sweep the scrappy Manitoba Bisons in two straight games at Clare Drake Arena.

Eric Hunter made a triumphant return to the lineup after taking a cheap shot to the head two weeks ago, leading his squad past the Bisons. Shaking away the cobwebs, Hunter was the catalyst to the Green and Gold's success this weekend.

With a fearless poise, the Alberta captain put his body in harms way against the brawny Bisons — something that the 6'1 captain could have easily shied away from in light of the trauma that he endured just a week ago.

"Manitoba is a tough team. Oftentimes, they can resort to that physical play; they become more aggressive and play a little dirty," Hunter said. "That's the style that they have to play against us, to get under our skin. I thought we responded really well. We were eating punches to the face all night, but we were mature about it."

While he was certainly pleased with his team's performance against the Herd, Hunter was most thankful for his health and his teammates' support while he continues to recover from an incident that could have ended his varsity career.

"The boys really stepped up for me this weekend. It was a pretty physical match so if there were going to be any ill effects, they were going to happen this weekend, but with everybody's support, I felt great," Hunter said after Saturday's series-clinching victory.

Bears head coach Eric Thurston was also breathing a sigh of relief behind the bench this weekend as he watched Hunter charge around the ice. While his captain didn't tally any points on the scoreboard this weekend, Hunter's gritty play and strong leadership was the boost that the Bears needed to catapult their way past the Bisons.

weekend. Displaying a fortitude well beyond their years, the Bears' core of freshman and sophomores teamed up for three goals and three assists throughout the course of the weekend, helping to tire out the Bisons' defence and their first-team all-Canadian goaltender Steve Christie.

"Our young guys are players that want to have the puck on their stick; they want to play. Those guys stepped it up this weekend," Thurston said, applauding his squads' unwavering commitment to the Bears' playoff journey. "On our team we play for each other. When you get 20 guys willing to battle like that while

**"Manitoba is a tough team. Oftentimes, they can resort to physical play; they become more aggressive and play a little dirty. We were eating punches to the face all night, but we were mature about it."**

**ERIC HUNTER**  
CAPTAIN, BEARS HOCKEY

"Hunter was huge for us. The way he carries himself on the ice and how he's a little bit reckless, and how he's a tough guy, and how he plays a little bit on the edge; that's how I want our entire team to play," Thurston said. "Eric Hunter is just a great student; he's a real class act that represents our university and our hockey team really well with his maturity and his character. I think our team understands that and put themselves on the line for him this weekend. It made my job a lot easier."

Along with the return of Hunter, the Bears' supporting cast was also integral to their success this

understanding their role, you get success."

While the Bears' victories this weekend assures them an automatic berth into the national championship tournament, Canada West glory is still up for grabs. The Green and Gold will face off against their provincial rival Calgary Dinos for the divisional banner next weekend at Clare Drake Arena.

"It's going to be great playoff hockey. I know [Calgary] is a great team and it's going to be battle royal in here. We'll wait to see what happens. Right now, I'm looking forward to having a cold beer."





FILEPHOTOS: ARMAND LUDICK, AARON YEO, MATT HIRJI

# Bears and Pandas suffer stunning away defeats

Four winter Green and Gold teams competed on the road this weekend in their CIS matchups without much in the way of success

## sportsshorts

Compiled by Matt Hirji

### Out of Rotation

The Pandas volleyball squad couldn't muster the brawn to claim a podium finish at the CIS national championships this weekend, falling to their Canada West rival Trinity Western Spartans in the bronze-medal match.

The young Green and Gold squad finished fourth overall in the tournament — a disappointing repeat of last year's result.

Leaving Quebec City without a medal comes with a great deal of dismay for the Pandas. After posting a solid 11-7 conference record in the regular season and grabbing a bronze medal in the ultra-competitive CanWest division, the Green and Gold entered the national championships poised to make a dent in a field chock full of talent.

But the Pandas were only able to ride their momentum so far. After stunning the Montréal Carabins 3-1 in the national quarter-finals, the Pandas found themselves in a downward spiral for the rest of the tournament. Dropping six of their last seven sets of the weekend, the Pandas lost their edge just when they needed it most.

So it's back to the drawing board for head

coach Laurie Eisler and her Pandas. The Green and Gold will lose four players to graduation this year, but with the return of second team All-Canadian setter Jaki Ellis and a supporting cast of dedicated athletes, next year's campaign looks promising.

### A Spartan Effort

It was close but no cigar for the Golden Bears volleyball team this weekend at CIS nationals in Langley, B.C., home of the Spartans.

Heading into the weekend as the fifth-ranked team in the country, the Green and Gold were looking for redemption after falling to the Trinity Western Spartans in the CanWest bronze medal game. But in their first match of the national championship tournament, the zealous Spartans fans forced the veteran Bears into committing six errors in the fifth set to drop out of contention.

The defeat at the hands of the Spartans did more than just shake the spirit of the veteran Bears. Forced to the relegation side of the bracket, the team lost their chance to claim their 10th straight medal at the national tournament. Despite winning their next two matches against a pair of east-coast opponents, the Sherbrooke Vert Et Or and the McMaster Marauders respectively, the powerhouse Bears could only achieve

an underwhelming fifth-place finish at the tournament.

Led by veteran head coach Terry Danyluk, the Volley Bears have returned home to Edmonton to lick their wounds and prepare for next season. With wake of three graduating seniors moving on, the always-vocal Tanner Nault will assume a leadership position on the squad next year, as the Green and Gold attempt to navigate their way back to national prominence.

### Double Dribble

Taking on some of the best varsity basketball teams in the country, the Court Bears bubble quickly burst this weekend at the Canada West Final Four.

After beating the Victoria Vikes last weekend to earn their first final-four appearance in more than three years, the youthful Bears couldn't sustain their momentum for long enough against the veteran UBC Thunderbirds. In a shocking display of dominance, the T-Birds claimed a 91-73 victory against the Golden Bears in the conference semifinal match on Friday evening.

Clearly overwhelmed by the strength of their opposition, the Bears couldn't find their stride over the rest of the weekend. After falling to the Thunderbirds, the Bears were eliminated from advancing to the national championship

tournament with little more than a whimper. In a come-from-behind victory, the Trinity Western Spartans potted 49 points in the second half of their consolation game to steal the CanWest bronze medal away from the Bears.

But all is not lost for the Bears basketball club. With a large batch of prolific players graduating on other teams, the maturing Bears are in a good position to make a run for the Canada West gold medal next year. The Bears will suit up in all-new uniforms next season as well.

### Last Shot at Glory

With the opportunity to clinch an automatic berth to the national championships, the Hoop Pandas fell flat this weekend at the Canada West Final Four.

Heading into the tournament after beating the UBC Thunderbirds in the conference quarterfinal, the Pandas were brimming with optimism. However, overcoming the Regina Cougars, a team ranked third in the country, proved to be a difficult task for Alberta. The Green and Gold never found their defensive energy, giving up 72 points to the Cougars offence.

On the bright side, the Green and Gold will have another opportunity to qualify for nationals this weekend against the St. Francis Xavier University X-Women in Ottawa.



# Junior recruitment sparks border battle among pro ranks

The NCAA provides a solid foundation for the growth of their athletes by giving their players plenty of opportunity to develop



TREVOR  
MAK

While there are instances where NHL players from American colleges just couldn't stack up [...] this is an exception to the rule.

point

Pundits argue that American teams bring athletes into their programs and mold them into a player unfit to compete in the pro ranks where strength and grit is king. NCAA defencemen, in particular, have taken the brunt of the critics' wrath with assertions that the Canadian Junior leagues are a better training ground to plant the seed of physical fortitude than the college leagues where too much book-learnin' takes place.

College hockey in the United States has taken too much flack over the years. While there are instances where NHL players from American colleges just couldn't stack up while wearing a pro jersey, this is an exception to the rule. Boston College product Brooks Orpik and former University of North Dakota defenceman Matt Greene are both hard-nosed defencemen who have had fruitful careers in the National Hockey League.

But when comparisons are made to the Canadian junior leagues, who boast alumni like Chris Pronger, Scott Stevens and American born Derian Hatcher, the CHL can easily claim the bragging rights over the NCAA for producing big, tough, hard-hitting athletes. However, we can't underestimate the defensemen who are graduates or are playing NCAA hockey. Turning away from just grit and body-checking, the NCAA has been a factory for many of the NHL's puck-moving defencemen; blue liners

you can look up to for chipping in on the difficult offensive plays and quarter-backing their special teams.

Most of the current and past star offensive blueliners in the NCAA from the University of Wisconsin Badgers. Their NHL alumni include Brian Rafalski, who despite his slight frame has been a key factor in the Detroit Red Wings' offensive success. Also graduating from Wisconsin were defencemen Gary Suter and his nephew Ryan Suter, who has 29 points in 44 games with the Nashville Predators so far this season.

Heading east, the Boston College Eagles and the Boston University Terriers have also cultivated many star puck-moving D-men. The Boston College Eagles Hockey Alumni list displays many well-known names. Brian Leetch, for example, is considered to be one of the best offensive blue-liners of all time, gaining credit for posting an astonishing 102 points during the 1991-92 season.

NCAA alumni have found a niche in the NHL. Despite their detractors, defencemen originating from south of the border are amongst the most cunning players stepping onto the professional ice today. Perhaps NHL teams looking for success should turn their attention south to and stop obsessing so much about the Canadian market.

The Canadian juniors ingrain a strong work ethic and develop the specific skills necessary for their players to prosper in the NHL



SALIM  
VALJI

The Canadian Junior leagues are just plain superior at preparing our young talent for the grind that they'll certainly experience in the pros.

counterpoint

Is this even a debate? Hands down, without any doubt, the Canadian junior leagues are far superior at developing players than the NCAA. The Canadian Hockey League is to developing players what the Edmonton Oilers are to losing: damn good at it.

Why is the CHL better? For starters, their style of play is very similar to the pro ranks. It's a league where former NHL players are coaches, who institute common strategies that are seen in the NHL. Secondly, the CHL develops grittier players. Fighting is an element that's prevalent in Canadian junior hockey, but invisible in American college hockey. The raw emotion and physicality that fuels junior hockey is a priceless experience that can't be found in the collegiate ranks.

The CHL is a league that quickly teaches these 16 and 17 year olds everything from how to drown out 5,000 people cheering against you to dealing with the media and learning the all-important phrases like "you know" and "obviously" that will serve them well when they appear on TSN. Playing on the road in hostile environments, having a national audience, and making headlines around the nation are what makes junior hockey so engaging.

The league also gives players a broader stage to showcase their talents. The World Junior Hockey Championship has rapidly become one of the most anticipated hockey events on the

Canadian sports fan's calendar, with more than six million Canadians watching the most recent gold-medal game.

To give you an idea of how much of a monopoly the CHL has on young players, consider that of the 21 players on Canada's 2011 World Junior team, only two of them plied their trade in the NCAA. Furthermore, Swede Gabriel Landeskog, a highly touted NHL prospect who could go number one overall at this year's NHL Entry Draft, chose to play in the CHL over the Swedish Elite League when he also had the option of going the NCAA route. In fact, in NHL Entry Draft history, only two college players have ever been selected first overall: Joe Murphy in 1986, and Rick DiPietro in 2000. The rest of the players have primarily been from the Canadian juniors — a testament to the power of the leagues north of the border.

The Canadian junior leagues are just plain superior at preparing our young talent for the grind that they'll certainly experience in the NHL. The raw emotion present in CHL games, as well as the parallels to pro hockey make it the ideal environment to develop young players. For rebuilding teams like the Edmonton Oilers, having their players in this type of environment will contribute greatly to the growth and development and future prosperity of the Copper and Blue.

## THE GATEWAY

### Line Editors

**The Gateway is accepting applications for the following Line Editor Positions for the 2011/2012 publishing year.**

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Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to Gateway Business Manager: Ashleigh Brown • (780) 492-6669 biz@gateway.ualberta.ca

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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\* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.  
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The term runs from 1 May, 2011 to 30 April, 2012.

The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August 2011 to the end of April 2012. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three summer issues for an honorarium of \$115/issue.

In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and News editors will receive \$1816.07 per month, Design & Production and Staff Reporter editors will receive \$726.69 per month per month, and all other line editors receiving \$1453.37 per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee.

When asked why he keeps a photo of himself above his locker, Red Wings forward Stu Grimson explained, "That's so when I forget how to spell my name, I can still find my fucking clothes."

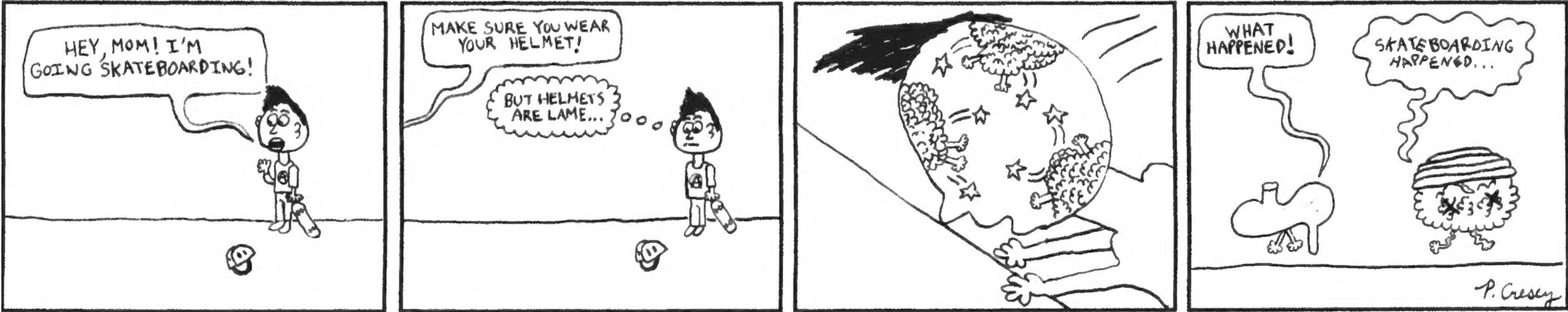
## GATEWAY SPOORTS

Forgetting how to spell our name since 1910

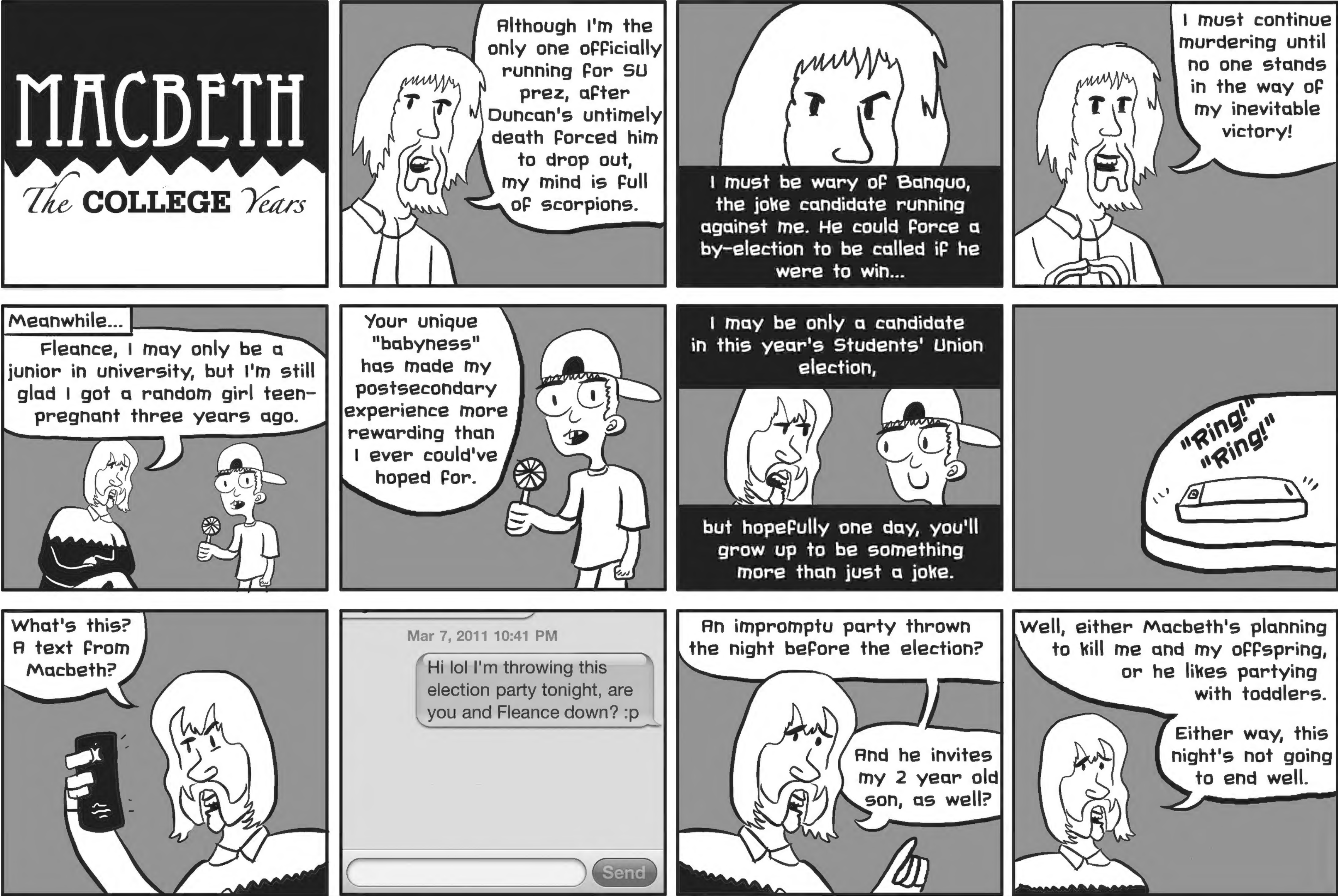
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THE UNCONSCIOUS KIND by Paul Crescy



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1. Eating a steak that was cooked inside a bigger, juicier steak.
2. Roll up hundred dollar bills into coin-shaped circles and use them to buy 100 Grand bars from American candy machines.

sudoku

1	6					3		
			9	7	1			
			3			8		9
7					4			5
				8		2		
6					3			8
9			2			7		
				9	1	4		
		5					6	1



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